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BSUers to gather in Jackson on Sept. 24-25

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Colonial Heights Church on Old Canton Road in Jackson will be the location for the 1999 State College Student Conference on Sept. 24-25, according to Anna Teel, State Baptist Student Union (BSU) president and a senior at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Sept. 24, with the program kicking off at 7 p.m. The conference ends at 4:30 p.m. on September 25.

"BSU students from around the state will be there. It is a great opportunity for fellowship with other students," Teel said.

The theme for this year's conference is "Why 2K?" and the theme verse is John 3:16.

"No matter what happens in this millennium, the gospel is still relevant," Teel said in explaining the theme. "God is timeless. We need to continue to share the gospel no matter what."

Teel also noted two special emphases to be highlighted at this year's conference.

"We will help out with Celebrate Jesus 2000 (CJ2000)," she said.

"Each BSU director has already made plans for how their BSU will respond to CJ2000, but it is the BSU student who will make that happen."

"We are also going to look for ways to help with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware — like during spring break," Teel said.

She also noted that representatives from student work in Maryland/Delaware will be at the conference, giving opportunity for dialogue.

A highlight of each year's conference is the presentation of the Student Summer Mission Program, which takes place on the afternoon of Sept. 25. An offering toward the

summer missions goal will be taken.

Conference program personalities include Nashville musician Chuck Bentley; The Nana Puddin' Show, featuring the ventriloquism of Dennis Lee of Dallas; Debbie Wohler, career missionary to Lake Tahoe, Calif.; and Darko Velichkovski, president and chief executive officer of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

In addition, several students will share their experiences as BSU summer missionaries overseas and at home. Also, a series of seminars will be offered during the Sept. 25 morning session.

For more information, contact

Velichkovski

the MBCB student work department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: wmc-cracken@mbcb.org.

Just a little tighter...



Jamye Reaves (right) of Grenada gets a blood pressure check from Debra Scudder, a nurse from Wilson, Wyo., who was in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Aug. 17-31 with a team of Southern Baptist nurses. The nurses were there as part of a partnership between the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist personnel in Bosnia. Reaves, a member of Friendship Church in Grenada, is a Journeyman with the International Mission Board. (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)



Lee and the Nana Puddin' Gang

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Baptist Press chief denied congressional privileges

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press (BP) has been denied congressional press credentials after several years of effort to renew the long-standing privilege. Joe Keenan, a spokesman for the Standing Committee of Correspondents, told Baptist Press the decision is final unless the Southern Baptist Convention news service becomes "an independent and self-sustaining editorial entity."

The decision has not prohibited Tom Strode, the Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press, from attending congressional hearings, Supreme Court oral arguments, or numerous other meetings in order to file his reports for the 15.7-million-member convention. When he arrived at his post in 1990, however, Strode's congressional cre-

dentials gave him access to press galleries of government entities and easy access to written testimony and various background materials issued to the media.

Press credentials from Congress would make Strode's job easier, with better access to hearings and committee meetings. Without the credentials, he can't expect to be seated in the press gallery of the House or Senate. When written statements are distributed to assist the media in understanding a hearing, Strode sometimes has to wait until after the hearing to get a copy. BP also has to request seating in advance for oral arguments before the Supreme Court.

In addition, the press gallery committee recently pulled the credentials of Baptist News Service (BNS). Keenan told Baptist

Press the committee rejected credentials for the Baptist Joint Committee news service because, "It's not editorially independent and supported by subscription and advertising." The Baptist Joint Committee, as BNS' owner, receives funding from various Baptist groups.

Reporters got together in the late 1800s to form a board to decide who would have access to the congressional press galleries, Keenan explained. The committee was authorized by Congress to give oversight to the job of granting press credentials. The group establishes its own rules and elects five secular reporters who are assisted by six staff members. "The standing committee is fiercely independent about anyone telling it how to handle its rules," Keenan said.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
Editor

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Missrecord@aol.com

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An anniversary not worth celebrating

Every August, Mississippians are treated to a month-long celebration of the anniversary of legalized gambling's arrival in the state. This year was no different. Positively glowing stories appeared in both print and electronic news media extolling the benefits of legalized gambling, and reminding us many times over how fortunate we are to be blessed with this politicians' answer to all of Mississippi's problems.

Wait a minute. A generation ago legalized alcohol was the politicians' answer to all of Mississippi's problems, so which is it? One gets confused.

At any rate, the August anniversary overkill is also a good time to ponder the down side of gambling — and there is a deep down side for those who have eyes to see.

There's the Southern Baptist mother who took up gambling and, like so many crack addicts, turned to prostitution to feed her habit. There's the small business owner whose wife has to sleep with the day's cash receipts under her pillow, lest he lose it all during one of his many dusk-to-dawn casino gambling binges.

There are the increasing rates of theft, suicide, domestic abuse, and drunk driving in areas where gambling has been legalized. There are the spiraling bankruptcy rates and mounting debts that our own Baptist medical centers must write off each year as total losses.

All of these ugly scenarios — and many more — have been brought to you by the gambling industry. They have been brought

to you in Mississippi by the gambling industry.

As if that weren't enough to make us hang our heads in embarrassment, the state is currently being used as the whipping boy in the nasty fight over an October 12 vote on lottery legalization in the neighboring state of Alabama.

Pro-lottery Governor Don Siegelman has accused Baptists and other lottery opponents in that state of taking money from Mississippi casinos to fund the anti-lottery campaign.

Among the lottery opponents tarred by the irresponsible Siegelman, who has absolutely no documentation to back up his accusations, are Lenora Pate, co-chair of the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union initiative to defeat the lottery, and Lt. Governor Steve Windom, who is also Southern Baptist.

Both people denied the accusations. "I am a private citizen and have not raised the first dollar," Pate said. "(Siegelman) does not want an honest debate on the lottery," Windom pointed out.

So there you have it. Not only has Mississippi been made to suffer the embarrassment of exploiting its own citizens through legalized gambling, we're now being dragged through the mud in other states, too, thanks to this wonderful new "industry" we have in our state. Do we really need another black mark on our reputation?

ANTI-GAMBLING SUNDAY
September 19, 1999



Next August, instead of a celebration of legalized gambling, maybe we could have a time of mourning for the Mississippi we have all lost. Somehow, that seems much more appropriate.

Deadline announced for publishing convention activities

The Baptist Record annually provides readers with a list of official activities and related gatherings for the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). The 1999 MBC annual meeting and related gatherings are scheduled for October 25-27 at First Church, Jackson, and other venues around the metro area.

The deadline for submitting these activities for announcement in The Baptist Record is the close of business on Thursday, September 23. Please include:

- formal name and type of activity.
- date, time, and location of activity.
- program speakers.
- costs of attending and meals provided.

Mail the information to arrive by the close of business on September 23 to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Information may be faxed to (601) 292-3330, or e-mailed to miss-record@aol.com. To avoid the possibility of mistakes, information will not be accepted over the telephone.

Over two-hundred years ago, American colonists sacrificed and died to establish the freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution of the United States of America — including religious freedom. Today we watch as people throughout the world battle for the rights many of us take for granted.

September 17-23 is Constitution Week, the 212th anniversary of the signing of this great document, which is the oldest and longest-lasting Constitution in all the world's history. It is the foundation upon which the United States is established. It allowed the American citizen of the 1790s, and his posterity to be "master of his fate, captain of his soul, and sovereign over his government."

When the news rang out that the Constitution had been signed, many referred to it as a miracle. We can be thankful for those men who had faith in God to lead them in framing the Constitution. James Madison said it was "impossible to consider the degree of concord which ultimately prevailed as less than a miracle."

GUEST OPINION:



Plan to celebrate Constitution Week

By Grace Jones, member
First Church, Brandon

He also stated he recognized "a finger of that almighty hand" in the writing of our Constitution.

George Washington also believed in the importance of prayer. He believed that prayer could and would change the course of the nation. He and Benjamin Franklin declared that this nation must include religious principles in all aspects of its national life if it were to maintain prosperity and success. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 provided a vivid illustration of their conviction and leadership.

Noah Webster stated "The moral principles and precepts contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our

civil constitutions and laws..."

During the early days of the Constitution Convention, there was much discord, hopeless deadlocks, and selfish desires on the part of each State. It was likely that the Convention would fail. Some delegates left in disgust. It was during this impasse that the nation's elder statesman and patriarch, Ben Franklin, rose to speak and quietly said: "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: 'that God governs the affairs of man.'" "...I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our

deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business." The delegates adjourned and for three days they prayed, attended church, and listened to ministers challenge and inspire them. We are told this was the turning point in the success of their deliberations.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our Founders and the nature of limited government, as well as the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship. We must be vigilant to protect the freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

The Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges you to take time this special week to study your Constitution and the Bill of Rights. You'll discover a deeper appreciation for America and her cherished history of religious freedom.

Jones is state chairman, public relations, Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Children's salvation focus of NAMB effort

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (BP) — With 56% of Christians today having accepted Christ before age 13, the questions of how and when to lead children to a personal relationship with Christ have never been more critical for families and churches.

By integrating a unified evangelistic strategy from infancy forward, it is possible to ensure that children have every opportunity to make decisions that change their lives for eternity, said Skip Arnhart, a children's evangelism specialist for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Arnhart gave an overview of guidelines for both sharing the gospel with children

and determining their readiness for making a lasting decision during a workshop on "Sharing God's Special Plan," NAMB's completely revamped set of resources on children's evangelism. The workshop was part of REACH '99, a church-planting and evangelism conference Aug. 30-Sept. 3 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The revised "Sharing God's Special Plan" materials introduced at the conference are the culmination of two years of work by Arnhart and a national task force as part of the

agency's new emphasis on children's evangelism. Available separately and in kit form from LifeWay Christian Resources, the materials include a witnessing booklet designed especially for children, a training manual and accompanying videotape,

their own actions as well as on the inherited sin nature that began with Adam and Eve's transgression in the garden.

"When you are born you are born a sinner, whether you like it or not," Arnhart said.

They then can reach an understanding of how Christ died for their sin, and how that gift can be theirs if they express genuine repentance and accept him as Lord of their lives.

How do you know they understand? Just asking them if they understand is not enough, Arnhart said. Any question that leads to "yes" or "no" answers —

commonly found in witnessing materials for adults — can be fraught with danger for

children. In order to please adults, they will simply answer in the affirmative.

Children must be asked to explain in their own words the critical concepts, which are complex enough that understanding is highly unusual in preschool years and in most children occurs from the ages of 9 to 11, Arnhart said.

"The beautiful thing about this witnessing booklet [God's Special Plan] is, number one, it is interactive. The child participates," said Arnhart. He mentioned how one woman had been less than enthusiastic about the booklet because of its complexity. She had used it with a child recently, and the child lost interest.

"And I thought, 'Great. What does that tell you about the child?'" Arnhart said. The booklet had been effective in demonstrating the child was

not ready to make a decision. Instead, they are congratulated for having made a "step towards God" and encouraged to continue learning more about God's plan for their lives.

"That's what the tract is designed for," Arnhart said. "It's a gospel presentation for children, but it also helps the adult determine whether the child is ready to be saved."

The actual presentation of the gospel should be undergirded with prayer, Arnhart said — for the one sharing, for the child, and that God would give the adult the wisdom to know if he had chosen that time to "call that child unto himself."

With or without a tract, the presentation should include questions that require explanations as answers, Arnhart said, and they should include relevant Scripture.



FOR CHILDREN ONLY — The "God's Special Plan for Children" witnessing booklet is among resources produced by the North American Mission Board to help churches effectively evangelize children. (BP Photo by James Dotson)

and a set of cards designed to train children how to share Jesus with their friends.

Arnhart said readiness is critical whenever the gospel is presented to children, because it is all too easy to lead them to a decision when their understanding is not complete.

The key issue is the child's understanding of sin, Arnhart said. They must first understand the meaning of sin as a violation of God's commands, a basic issue of right and wrong. They also must understand they are guilty of sin, based on

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Honduras responding

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP) — "In 32 years of missionary service, this is the most unprecedented thing I have ever seen. We have people coming not asking for food or a building but asking us to bring the Word of God to them," says Max Furr. Furr, a North Carolina native appointed to missionary service in 1967, coordinates field strategy in Honduras for the International Mission Board.

He and his fellow Southern Baptist missionaries, along with Honduran Baptist partners, have worked tirelessly to witness and minister in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, which struck Honduras on Halloween night 1998. Scores of Southern Baptist volunteers have come to help. Because of Mississippi Baptists' long history of partnership missions with Honduras, the International Mission Board requested that the state convention become involved in the hurricane relief effort.

As a result, Honduras Baptist churches are reporting decisions for Christ, baptisms, and new mission points in larger numbers than ever before. Many even are reporting surprising numbers of church members getting their lives straightened out. "I think people got scared and realized you don't mess with Mother Nature and you cannot predict what will happen," Furr said. Hondurans heard the gospel during relief efforts in the country, and as people began to accept Christ, Honduran Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries set a goal of establishing 100 churches in 1999. Already, 60 congregations have been started and some 1,250 people are awaiting baptism.

One three-association area in northern Honduras has had 29 new church starts, with more than 1,100 new believers awaiting baptism. In the area of San Pedro Sula alone, three churches have started six new mission points.

Looking back

10 years ago

Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board and T. W. Hunt of the Sunday School Board believe that America is on the front end of a major spiritual awakening. Both men spent part of the summer leading prayer seminars at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers.

20 years ago

Several Mississippi churches are damaged when Hurricane Frederic slams into the Gulf Coast area last week. The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief mobile feeding unit is called in to provide meals in the Pascagoula area, which was one of the hardest hit locations in Mississippi.

50 years ago

A committee of five well-known preachers finds that charges of modernism being taught at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., are unfounded. The committee was appointed after a motion was made at the Southern Baptist Convention to investigate the teachings at the seminary.

Winter Bible Study preview set for Sept. 28

The preview clinic for the 2000 Winter Bible study is set for September 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at First Church, Jackson, according to Larry Salter, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The annual event offers pastors and other church staff leaders the opportunity to be introduced to the Winter Bible Study materials for adults and youth that are produced by Lifeway Christian resources.



Martin

Salter said that this year he was able to secure the authors of both the youth and adult books to lead the sessions.

The adult material, titled "Live for the Future Now: A study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians," is written by D. Michael Martin, professor of New Testament interpretation and associate academic dean at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

The youth material is titled, "Last Word: A study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians," and is written by Jonathan Hewett, a youth evangelist from Celina, Texas.

Salter also said that no reservations or fees are required for this year's clinic. A complimentary lunch is provided by the MBCB Sunday School Department.

For more information, contact Salter or Mark Lott in the MBCB Sunday School Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3292, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail lsalter@mbcb.org or mlott@mbcb.org.



Hewett

CML Conference scheduled for October 1-2

The 28th Annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held October 1-2, 1999, at First Church, Brookhaven. Agenda for the conference begins October 1 with registration at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 8 p.m. The conference begins at 8 a.m. on October 2 and concludes at noon.

"Mississippi Baptists who are involved in any facet of the ministry of the church media library are encouraged to attend," said Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).



Andrews

The focus for 1999-2000, "Media Libraries... Ministering With Vision," is about preparing to meet the challenges and changes of a new century. Conference leaders include:

◆ Beth Andrews, media library director at First Church, Southlake, Tex., and national specialist in the Church Media Program at LifeWay Christian Resources.

◆ Sandra Fitts, media library director, at First Church, Corinth, and associational media ministry director for Alcorn Association in Corinth.

◆ Bill Jones, director of development for Master Library System, Book Systems, Inc., Huntsville, Ala.

◆ Kathy Sylvest, librarian for New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

◆ Hope Winter, media library director at Temple Church, Ruston, La.

◆ Faye Miller, media director at First Church, Sumrall, and state associational media ministry representative.

Courses being offered this year are:

◆ CML Administration: Getting the Work Done, Classifying Using Dewey, and Choosing and Using Sears Subject Headings taught by Andrews.

◆ Getting Started: I'm New, What Do I Need to Know?, Preparing Print Media for Circulation, and Preparing Audiovisual Media for Circulation taught by Fitts.

◆ Automation Current MLS DOS Users, Automation Current MLS Concourse and MLS Questions/Answers taught by Jones.

◆ Beginning a Library Automation, Promotion: The Basic Plan and Promotion Design-Visual, taught by Winter.

◆ Preserving Your Church's History and Ministry of CML taught by Sylvest.

◆ Association Media Ministry taught by Miller. Special features include the LifeWay Book Store exhibit and



Winter



Fitts

author Lawana Blackwell of Baton Rouge will speak at dinner Friday evening about fulfilling her dream to become a writer.

The Mississippi Media Sampler starts at 7 p.m. on October 1. Booths include Book Doctor; MLS Lab Demo; Examples of Preservation Storage Vehicles; Mini-Display Ideas; Resources and Other Freebies; and AV Hardware.

Suggested motels are Comfort Inn, 745 Magee Drive, (601) 835-0055; and Hampton Inn, 1-55 at Brookway Boulevard, (601) 823-3800. Attendees must make their own lodging reservations. Be sure to ask for Church Media Library Conference rate.

Registration fee is \$12.50 per person, which includes lunch and dinner at the church on Oct. 1 and conference materials. Reservations are needed.



Blackwell

Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to Broadcast Services/CML, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more information contact the MBCB Broadcast Services Department at (601) 292-3378 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

DFM area reps trained, ready to help churches

By Don Hicks, consultant
MBCB DFM Department

The Discipleship and Family Ministry (DFM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has enlisted nine area representatives to help support churches and associations in their discipling ministries.

These men train regularly and once a year they go on a two-day retreat with DFM staff. This year's retreat was held August 26-27 in the Church Growth Center on the New Orleans Seminary campus in New Orleans.

The nine representatives, selected by the areas of the state defined by MBCB policy, are:

● Area 1: Wayne Marshall, pastor, Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch.

● Area 2: Jimmy McFatter, minister of education, First Church, Amory.

● Area 3: Clay Blair, retired layman, Carrollton.

● Area 4: Bill Rogers, layman, Louisville.

● Area 5: Steve Jackson, pastor, McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl.

● Area 6: Gilbert Allen, pastor, Pine Grove Church, Union.

● Area 7: Glen Williams, retired Director of Missions, McComb.

● Area 8: Larry Goff, BSU director, Jones Junior College.

● Area 9: Ken Walters, associate pastor, First, Picayune.

During the New Orleans retreat, Randy Millwood of the seminary faculty spoke to the area reps. Millwood said, "Discipleship is the umbrella

over evangelism, conversion, and maturity."

Millwood identified some trends in successful discipling churches. Three major trends are:

● First: defined discipleship markers, (conversion, membership, and service).

● Second: clarified purpose (how to do discipleship).

● Third: mentoring/coaching (one on one).

Millwood stated that churches need to evaluate, strategize, flesh-it-out, and use resources such as curriculum, space, time, and leaders.

After Millwood's presentation, area reps and the department staff discussed plans to visit every association. Also, special area-wide projects are planned this fall in Tupelo for Area 2, Neshoba for Area 6, and Gulf Coast for Area 9.

Area reps discussed suggestions for Growing Churches Through Discipleship at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 27-29, 2000.

The nine area representatives are trained and ready to help churches and associations in their respective areas. Many times

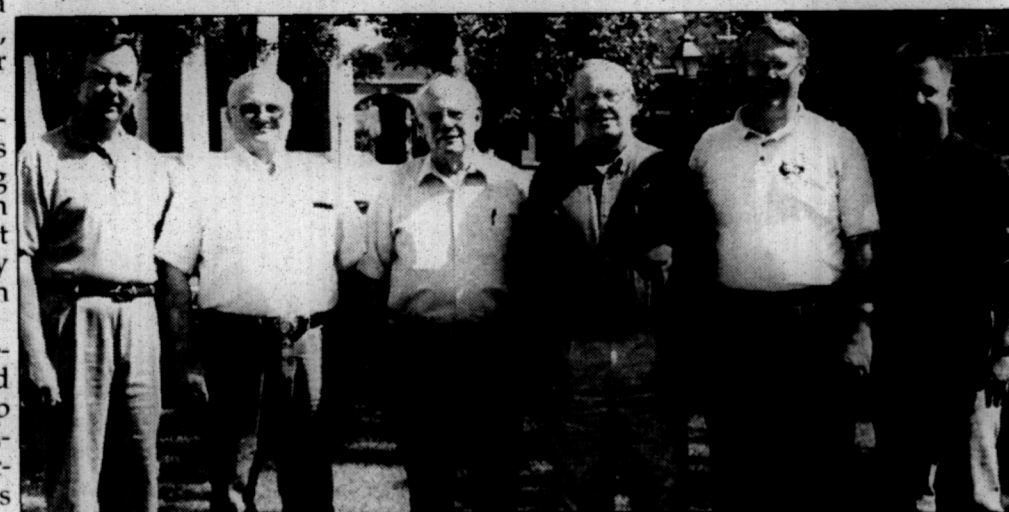
the reps help DFM staff personalize consultations, communication, and support to more churches and associations.

To receive help from the area representatives or DFM staff,

contact the department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3283 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



DFM RETREAT — Among the staff and area representatives of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Discipleship and Family Ministry (DFM) Department who attended a retreat August 26-27 at New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans were (top photo, from left) area representatives Jimmy McFatter, Steve Jackson, Bill Rogers, Ken Walters, and DFM consultant Don Hicks; (bottom photo, from left) DFM director Marcus Peagler, area representatives Gilbert Allen, Glen Williams, Clay Blair, and DFM consultants Glenn Shows and Harvey Ellis. (BR special photos)



Prayer guide for Jews attracting attention

WASHINGTON (BP) — The news media and various Jewish leaders have taken note of a new prayer booklet for the Jewish people published by the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board (IMB).

The Associated Press circulated an article nationally during the Labor Day weekend and among subsequent articles was one in The Washington Post on Sept. 9. The news media reports, not unexpectedly, have included quotes from Jewish leaders critical of the pocket-sized prayer booklet.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, told The Washington Post, "There's a kind of theological arrogance that pervades all of this, a certain willingness on their part to play God, and an absence of awareness that these sorts of statements throughout history are associated with coercion, hatred, and violence."

IMB executive vice-president Don Kammerdiener, interviewed for a Sept. 9 article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, reminded that Southern Baptists "take Jesus' message to preach the gospel to the world seriously. We are simply bearing testimony to what we believe."

Kammerdiener, who authored the prayer booklet's introduction, wrote, "The Bible is clear in giving Christ's followers guidance regarding the necessity of sharing the gospel with the Jews. Jesus and all the apostles were Jews. Jesus stated clearly that his followers were to begin their witness to him in Jerusalem and Judea, the heartland of the Jews."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in response to a Baptist Press request for comment, noted that the prayer booklet may be "clearly out of step with postmodern culture" and "off the charts on the scale of political incorrectness. Nevertheless, it is deeply rooted in Southern Baptists' passion to see all persons come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. ...

"While liberal churches have largely abandoned all conversionist missions, evangelical Christians remain committed to tell all persons, regardless of racial, ethnic, or religious background, of the gospel of Jesus Christ," Mohler wrote. "This is the

great evangelistic mission of Christianity, and it is as old as Jesus' command to go and make disciples."

"The real enemy of Judaism is not Christianity, but the corrosive secularism that has so poisoned American culture," Mohler noted. "... Jewish protests against this prayer guide ring hollow when a majority of American Jews no longer express belief in a personal God. Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz has warned that Judaism could effectively disappear in the next century — not because of conversion to Christianity, but due to Jewish assimilation into the secular culture."

The IMB prayer booklet focuses on the "Days of Awe," a 10-day period beginning on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, when Jewish tradition teaches that God opens his Book of Life to inscribe the names of the righteous and remove the names of the wicked. The book remains open for 10 days, during which Jewish people recall the sins of the previous year and pray to God for forgiveness. The observance, also known as the Days of Repentance, ends with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah was on Sept. 11 this year; Yom Kippur, is on Sept. 20.

In a resolution adopted by messengers to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, Southern Baptists were called to prayer for the salvation of Jewish people and to direct more energies and resources toward proclaiming to Jewish people the good news of salvation in Jesus, the Messiah.

That resolution also drew national attention and was denounced by various critics, some of whom said efforts to evangelize Jews amounted to "spiritual genocide."

An estimated 130,000 to 150,000 Jews worldwide follow Jesus, according to missiologists' estimates, with about 5,000 Messianic Jews in Israel in about 80 congregations and 110,000 in the United States in more than 100 congregations.

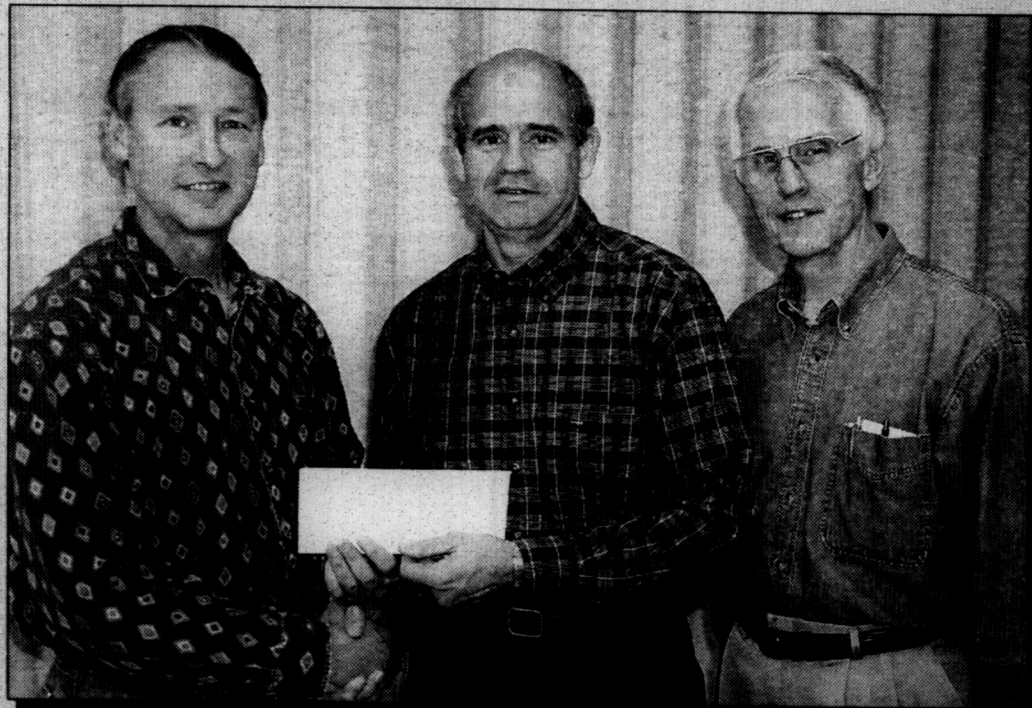
Perhaps 75% of the world's 15 mil-

lion Jews no longer practice Rabbinic Judaism, and most are secularists or atheists, according to one missiologist's study.

The International Mission Board's prayer guide contains 10 vignettes of Jewish life during the Days of Awe, along with brief sketches of Jewish populations around the world and suggestions about how to pray for Jewish people as they seek God.

To order the Days of Awe prayer guide, e-mail the IMB resource center at resource.center@imb.org or call toll free (800) 866-3621.

Supporting summer missions



Weaver McCracken (left), associate director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board student work department, and Jerry Merriman (right), director of the student work department, accept a \$1,000 check from Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. The check, which represents the proceeds from efforts of the Gulfshore Assembly staff to collect recyclable materials on assembly grounds during the summer 1998 summer camping season, was used to support Mississippi Baptist Student Union summer missionaries. McCracken said the funds from Gulfshore were enough to fully support one summer missionary and partially support one other summer missionary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

WILDFIRE

Due to the drought conditions across our land and our state, many areas have been under special "fire alert" status. In some places across the western U.S., wildfires have broken out destroying hundreds of thousands of acres along with businesses and homes. It is a serious and deadly situation.

It is hard for many of us to imagine the kind of force and fury that is created in some of these huge fires. Firestorms erupt, creating winds of up to 100 miles per hour and heat so intense that it melts metal. One reporter who was covering one of the western wildfires was caught in the firestorm and lived to tell about it. Normally, when someone is caught in the incredible winds and intense heat, there is no escape. The reporter, still shaken, told his story and was so grateful to be alive.

Fire can be a wonderful thing. With it you can cook, or be warmed, or destroy unwanted or unneeded things — but out of control, fire is a frightening killer.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

While most of us have never experienced a firestorm and do not want to, we all may have watched the flames that come burning into our churches or communities. James, in the third chapter of his epistle, tells us that the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, and is set on fire of Hell. Good fire is good, and bad fire is of Hell.

Stop and consider how many times someone's tongue has been used to burn down another life, to eradicate a good work, and to ruin a fine reputation. The tongue is a flame-thrower. Once the fire is ignited it is hard and sometimes impossible to stop. Sometimes it is important for us to keep our mouths shut and our

tongues quiet: when something is untrue; when you are unsure; and when it is unnecessary.

When something is untrue and you tell it, you are not only a gossip but you are a liar. You are no less responsible for telling a lie simply because you quote somebody else's lie. Oftentimes when you speak you may not be quite sure of what you are telling. In fact, you may even have an uneasiness about what you've heard, so it's best to remain silent until you get all the facts and see the true picture.

Then there are those times when telling something is just unnecessary. It may even be true, and you may even be sure, but it's just not necessary.

I've heard people through the years tell things that they qualify by saying that they know it's the truth and they are going to tell it like it is!

They spill stuff out that is deadly poison in the name of "righteous truthfulness." How often do you suppose Jesus knew things about people and situations, yet did not choose to say it and hurt them?

Someone once suggested that Jesus never had to say, "I wish I hadn't said that." Anytime a sentence begins, "I probably shouldn't say this, but..." you are probably right and you should probably stop at that point.

The world would probably be a better place if we, who know the Lord, would submit to him and allow him to control what we say and what we do not say.

Remember what someone once poetically said:

A wise old owl sat in an oak./The more he saw, the less he spoke./The less he spoke, the more he heard./Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

Lineberger declines nomination

DALLAS (BP) — Phil Lineberger, the Texas pastor nominated as the next executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) has declined the nomination. A special called meeting Sept. 14 of the BGCT executive board in Dallas was to have considered his nomination but has been canceled.

What prompted Lineberger to decline the nomination after accepting the search committee's nomination has left many BGCT officials puzzled.

Officials with the BGCT said they were attempting to get details on the Lineberger announcement and would release a statement as soon as possible.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, will present the musical, *God With Us*, on Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. The choir is under the direction of Allen Sims with Lynn Sumrall, pianist. Special guest participants will be Don Simpson, Madison, organist; and Graham Smith, Music Department, MBCB, worship leader. Byron Malone is pastor.

Houston Road Church, Laurel, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sept. 19. A special homecoming service will be held at 10 a.m., followed by lunch. Afternoon service will begin around 1:30 p.m. Revivals services will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 19-22. Larry Nickell of Georgia will be the guest evangelist. Richard Clark is pastor.

Shady Grove Church, Batesville, dedicated its new parsonage on June 27. The parsonage has three bedrooms, two full baths, and a single carport. Terry Tribble, pastor, and his family moved in on July 1. Also on program was Courtney Selvey, director of missions, Panola Association.



New Zion Church, Crystal Springs

Carterville Church, Petal, held a recognition service for its GAs on Aug. 31. Seventy-seven girls earned their WorldVenture charms. GA director is Rose Rainey. Leland Hogan is pastor.

The Philippine Children's Choir will be in concert, 7 p.m., Sept. 21 at Grandview Church, Pearl. Wade Chappell is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 939-4215.

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, recently held ground breaking services for a 350-seat sanctuary, office complex, four classrooms, and music department. Norris Curry is pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



BMC BSU leaders

BSU welcome party was recently held at Blue Mountain College (BMC). Pictured (from

left) are Tracy Moser, BSU director; Anna Teel from Red Banks, state BSU president; Amy Lewis from Memphis, BSU president at BMC; and Jerry Merriman, director of student work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson.

William Rivero, chair of the department of psychology at William Carey College, announced the addition of the Master of Science in Psychology with emphasis areas in counseling psychology, gerontology, Christian counseling, and school counseling. Classes will be offered winter trimester, which begins Nov. 8. Applications for admis-

sion to the program are available in the admissions office or by calling (601) 582-6772. Also, the Master of Science in Industrial/Organizational Psychology on the Gulfport campus will begin in the winter trimester on Nov. 8. Applications are being received for the two-year program. Call the admission office at (228) 897-7100 for more information.

Mississippi College School of Nursing is having a regularly scheduled accreditation review by the National League for Nursing Accrediting

Commission (NLNAC). Any comments regarding the program should be mailed directly to the NLNAC at: National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006

Mary Dean Hollis was honored at a reception for her 48 years of service as a business officer at Blue Mountain College.



Hollis

VBS RESULTS



Cloverdale Church, Natchez, recently held Vacation Bible School (VBS) with an average daily attendance of 90 and above. For the mission project, each child brought toys, etc., for the children in Kosovo. The offering taken during VBS, as well as the GAs Christmas in August offering, was used to pay for the shipping.

Vacation Bible School was held July 19-23 at Shady Grove Church, Batesville. The average attendance for the week was 85 students. There were 10 professions of faith and two commitments. Terry Tribble is pastor.

Strong Hope, Wesson: average attendance, 86; Penny

Martin, director; Troy Bankston, pastor.

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.
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PARADISE
MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY SMOKE- AND ALCOHOL-FREE BOWLING CENTER.
820 COOPER ROAD, JACKSON, MS
Sept./Oct. Church Special:
Wednesday nights... 2 hours
bowling, shoes, pizza, and a drink for only \$7.00 per person!
Ask about lock-ins and other specials.
Call for reservations: 601-372-7700.

THANKS TO YOU WHO CARED!

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.



Pat Hutton

Administrative Assistant Sunday school teachers carrying a witness for Christ until He comes again. To receive a scholarship at one of our Southern Baptist seminaries you must be a Mississippian and a candidate for a Master's or an Associate's degree. Applications are due in our office by July 15 for the fall semester and November 15 for the spring semester. Scholarships for students at our 3 Mississippi Baptist colleges are handled through the financial aid office at each institution.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation call (601) 292-3210 or 1-800-748-1651, or write to P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 16, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

September 17 - 30, 1999

Cultivate An Attitude of Listening in Prayer

"After spending time talking with God and reading Scripture, tell Him you are ready to listen. Invite Him to convey anything you need to know to live faithfully for this day. Don't be discouraged if you hear nothing. God may communicate in unseen, unnoticed ways. He may wait until you are more ready for the answer. The important thing is to ask and seek and know that you will not be left without direction."

Prayer Magazine - "Why Am I Doing All the Talking" by Timothy Jones

Anti-Gambling Day (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Pray for the Scriptures to be translated into the Abazin language in North Caucasus. The only known believer from that people group begs for God's Word in his language.

Bob Bailey is the Southeastern Baptist Association missionary in Jeffersonville, Ind. Pray that the funds will come in for a new 9,600 square foot building. It will have offices, a student center for Indiana University Southeast, and will be a hunger depot to provide for six hunger centers.

Anna Chen is a Christian living in the U.S. who wants her family to come to know the Lord! Ken and Pat Varner, missionaries in Taiwan, have recently visited Anna's family in Kaohsiung. Pray for continued contact with that family and for their salvation.

Two journeymen serving in Botswana have been denied residence permits twice. Missionary Rose Ann Childress asks you to pray that the Lord would intervene as they apply to a higher government office. These young people are working with the students and youth of Botswana.

Missionary Charla Greenhaw writes from Brazil: "We praise the Lord for our monthly all-night vigil and prayer service at the penitentiary chapel Saturday and Sunday. We are seeing men and their wives accepting the Lord at a rate of five to six per week. Pray for this and other prison ministries in Brazil."

For (1) Volunteer Chaplaincy Training, Baptist Medical Center, Jackson ((2) Interfaith Witness Conference, Southside BC, Jackson ((3) African-American Church Leadership Institute, Beacon BC, Yazoo City (4) Glorieta on the Gulf, FBC, Gulfport (Equipping Team) (5) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa

Recently, in a Last Frontier nation, police discovered partially burned copies of the Koran in an alley inhabited by ethnic Christians. They arrested all the young men on the street. Later they found that the burned copies of the Koran had been planted by an opposition group, so the believers were released. Thanks for your prayers!

For: (1) Missionary parents Fellowship, Camp Garaywa (WMU) (2) College Student Conference, Colonial Hgts. BC, Jackson (Student Work).

Chinese currently observing Hungry Ghost Festival believe the gates of hell are open and demons run loose. To protect themselves, they burn symbolic paper and incense and offer food to the ghosts. Pray that the people will be set free from this spirit of fear and will come to know the one true God.

Pray for Baptist representatives Dale and Kimberly Ledbetter in Ukraine as they begin to formulate ideas and plans for a church-planting project in the spring and summer of 2000. Mississippi Baptists will be partnering and working with the Ledbetters in nine different areas in the N. Odessa Region.

For: (1) Discipleship Rally (each association) (Discipleship & Family Ministry Emphasis) (2) Church Related Vocations Banquet, William Carey College (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

For: Winter Bible Study Preview, FBC, Jackson (Sunday School). Glenn Harada is Christian social ministries director in the Honolulu Windward Baptist Association. Pray for the association as it goes through reorganization.

Pray for the Karachay believers in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic of North Caucasus, who want to reach out to others. They are trying to gather musical equipment, medicines and foods to distribute, in the hope that these will help the local people revise their opinion of Christianity.

Pray for the Yi of China. They come down from the mountains to a small town to barter and trade on market days. There is also an elementary boarding school located in this town, staffed by Yi teachers and filled with young Yi children. None of them have experienced the love of Jesus.

Attention: All Lads, Crusaders & Challengers



Mississippi College
Grades 1-12
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$4 per person
Bring your own sack lunch and drink.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30

Sponsored by the
Men's Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Outreach Strategy Tour

October 11 • North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

October 12 • Oakhurst Baptist Church
Clarksdale

Schedule

9 a.m.-noon
Afternoon
7-9 p.m.

Outreach Strategy for Pastors and Staff
Individual Consultations Available
Reaching through Sunday School/
Age Group Outreach Training

FACULTY: Preschool • Linda Reeves, Children • Judy Haney, Youth
• Mark Lott, Adult • Larry Salter, Bob Buckner, General Officer
• John Clendinning, David Wills

Jesus modeled it. God commanded it. Educators taught it. Growing churches know the secret. And now there is a conference that can help you and your church determine, define, design and develop an Outreach Strategy for your church. The Outreach Strategy Awareness Tour is designed to help pastors and staff develop a strategy for reaching the community, and for all Sunday School leaders to increase awareness of the need for following the Great Commission in reaching others for Christ.

For more info or brochure, contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB
Phone 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 locally

Email: ss@mbcb.org

Register online: www.mbcb.org/ss

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 1999 through June 30, 1999. An "*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
ADAMS			
CALVARY	1007.00	1862.00	2869.00
CLIFF TEMPLE	1006.75	5484.72	15550.47
CLOVERDALE	9285.53	10537.91	20323.44
CRAWFORD	712.22	1800.46	2512.68
FBC NATCHEZ	43899.37	118309.19	162208.56
IMMANUEL	4791.15	4558.00	9349.15
MORGANTOWN	9190.56	6049.98	15440.54
NEW HOPE	363.11	242.08	605.19
PARKWAY	28762.08	16842.16	45604.24
SPRINGFIELD	2012.00	2454.00	4466.00
STATION	574.47	5081.08	5655.55
WASHINGTON	11685.36	19538.86	31224.22
TOTAL	128253.54	181075.14	309328.68
ALCORN			
ANTIOCH	1574.88	3822.42	5397.30
BETHLEHEM	1850.23	4629.93	6480.16
BRUSH CREEK	255.11	814.61	1069.72
CALVARY	2892.45	918.20	3810.65
COUNTY LINE	600.00	2680.00	3280.00
DANVILLE	444.48	444.58	889.06
EAST CORINTH	2975.43	2883.96	5859.39
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1634.45	2119.51	3753.96
FBC CORINTH	59984.69	31401.01	91385.70
GLENDAL	1441.85	1325.00	2766.85
HINKLE	2178.85	3865.56	6044.41
HOLLY	547.92	4328.88	4876.80
JACINTO	570.35	1244.33	1814.70
KEMPS CHAPEL	1003.80	1053.83	2057.63
KENDRICK	3359.82	2755.82	6115.64
KOSSUTH FIRST	648.18	1063.16	1711.34
LIBERTY HILL	322.50	322.50	645.00
LOVE OAK	0.00	600.00	600.00
NORTH CORINTH	29040.43	3737.87	66418.30
OAKLAND	1005.99	1390.66	2396.65
RIDGECREST	5089.65	8726.83	13816.48
RIENZI	4497.12	4440.85	8937.97
SHILOH	600.00	270.00	870.00
SOUTH CORINTH	40187.52	51285.46	91472.98
TATE	1674.90	2177.75	3852.65
TISHOMINGO CHAPEL	877.40	1583.16	2460.56
TUSCUMBIA	2034.06	4019.10	6053.16
UNITY	675.71	1298.64	1974.35
WEST CORINTH	9208.05	9056.47	18264.52
WHEELER GROVE	26754.19	7077.93	33832.12
TOTAL	211475.06	206113.45	417588.49
ATTALA			
*ASSOCIATION	0.00	860.00	860.00
BEAR CREEK	60.00	60.00	120.00
BEREA	795.00	1501.00	2296.00
BOWMAN	136.00	268.00	404.00
CARSON RIDGE	328.00	328.00	656.00
COUNTY LINE	1858.00	3154.00	5012.00
DOTY SPRINGS	0.00	500.00	500.00
EBENEZER	440.00	540.00	980.00
ETHEL	8586.00	5534.00	14120.00
FBC KOSCIUSKO	66767.73	57679.03	124446.76
HURRICANE	273.08	666.51	939.59
IRUSALEM	635.85	212.82	848.67
MCCADAMS	4208.68	9623.41	13832.09
MCCOOL	4765.86	4923.52	9689.38
NEW SALEM	394.60	394.60	789.20
PARKWAY	13173.28	13739.64	26912.92
PELLER MEMORIAL	200.50	300.50	501.00
PILGRIMS REST	1200.81	3413.94	4614.75
PLEASANT RIDGE	115.50	0.00	115.50
PROVIDENCE	65.64	0.00	65.64
SALLIS	2903.65	7175.25	10078.90
SAND HILL	751.61	1138.29	1889.90
SECOND KOSCIUSKO	2735.33	1663.86	4399.19
SPRINGDALE	2683.75	2544.81	5228.56
UNITY	1018.00	1018.00	2036.00
WILLIAMSVILLE	10491.00	15450.50	25941.50
YOCKANOOKANY	791.85	2072.62	2864.47
ZAMA	555.84	2107.36	2663.20
TOTAL	125657.56	138782.91	264440.47
BENTON-TIPPAH			
*ASSOCIATION	0.00	3536.00	3536.00
ACADEMY	2016.98	2337.21	4354.19
ASHLAND	7290.40	5790.60	13081.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	1190.00	1201.00	2391.00
CANAAN	300.00	471.50	771.50
CHALYBEATE	0.00	80.00	80.00
COMMUNITY	1060.00	144.00	1204.00
CONCORD	1165.30	2385.02	3550.32
DRY CREEK	525.06	1204.12	1729.18
DUMAS	18579.99	9984.28	28564.27
FAITH	1003.50	932.00	1935.50
FALKNER	5931.87	8403.68	14335.55
FBC HICKORY FLAT	5589.07	3691.50	9280.57
FBC RIPLEY	53566.58	40745.69	94312.27
FELLOWSHIP	4423.03	7138.05	11561.08
FLAT ROCK	199.33	792.33	991.66
HAMILTON	1257.04	300.00	1557.04
HARMONY	8382.87	5308.00	13690.87
LEBANON	163.33	653.33	816.66
LOWERY MEMORIAL	2428.62	5387.88	7816.50
MCCADAMS	0.00	462.00	462.00
MT HEBRON	0.00	325.00	325.00
MT OLIVE	1459.34	714.84	2174.18
NEW HOPE	369.95	867.09	1237.04
NORTH RIPLEY	519.49	1338.98	1858.47
OAKLAND	3144.04	4119.87	7263.91
PALMER	3464.92	3742.87	7207.79
PEOPLES	1805.55	2108.60	3914.15
PINE GROVE	4340.30	3265.03	7605.33
PINE HILL	1948.00	1769.81	3717.81
PLNT HILL TIPSVILLE	492.67	0.00	492.67
PLNT HILL ASHLAND	0.00	1900.00	1900.00
PROVIDENCE	5241.97	4164.61	9406.58
SHADY GROVE	998.97	296.68	1295.65
SPRINGDALE	3951.20	3121.00	7072.20
TIPPSVILLE	488.28	479.26	967.54
TURNERS CHAPEL	14.00	14.00	28.00
UNITY	40.00	200.00	240.00
WALNUT	2675.55	3624.35	6299.90
WEST RIPLEY	19274.82	10559.19	29834.01
WHITTETOWN	627.86	977.86	1605.72
TOTAL	166888.97	145133.92	312022.89
CALHOUN			
*ASSOCIATION	0.00	807.00	807.00
ANTIOCH	908.27	1138.53	2046.80
BANNER	2984.42	3956.17	6940.59
BENTLEY	0.00	50.00	50.00
BETHANY	6310.00	14503.91	20813.91
BIG CREEK	11503.23	9101.57	20604.80
BRADFORD CHAPEL	1512.81	4098.81	5611.62
CALVARY	1282.19	100.00	1382.19
COLLEGE HILL	802.24	50.00	852.24
CONCORD	2193.40	5132.85	7326.25
DERMA	17230.25	11582.98	28813.23
DRIVERS FLAT	150.00	104.00	254.00
DUNCAN HILL	940.00	83.00	1023.00
ELLARD	507.71	872.71	1380.42
FBC BRUCE	12007.18	18065.42	30072.60
FBC CALHOUN CITY	35045.12	24309.95	59355.07
FBC VARDAMAN	13896.11	6311.80	20207.91
LANTIRP	200.00	400.00	600.00
MACEDONIA	1189.28	1552.96	2742.24
MIDWAY	883.15	909.76	1792.91
MT COMFORT	1730.61	994.69	2725.30
MT MORIAH	7992.53	6868.22	14860.75
MT TABOR	300.00	600.00	900.00
NEW HOPE	1096.66	1237.32	2333.98
NEW LIBERTY	1440.82	2243.36	3684.18
NEW PROVIDENCE	952.20	3780.92	4733.12
OAK GROVE	256.00	128.00	384.00
OLDTOWN	3124.32	2418.08	5542.40
PARKER	1475.92	291.18	1767.10
PILGRIMS REST	161.90	161.90	323.80
PITTSBORO	3400.51	4555.03	7955.54

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
PLEASANT GROVE	393.09	262.00	655.09
PLEASANT HILL	3510.88	2048.01	5558.89
PLEASANT RIDGE	1914.96	3742.80	5657.76
POPLAR SPRINGS	260.66	678.39	939.05
ROCKY BRANCH	561.11	1821.33	2382.44
ROCKY MOUNT	217.00	193.00	410.00
SABOUGLA	5139.71	3651.69	8791.40
SAREPTA	451.36	677.05	1128.41
SECOND CALHOUN	285.00	946.00	1231.00
SHILOH	578.58	9509.77	10088.35
SPRING HILL	1427.32	1561.60	2988.92
TURKEY CREEK	48.00	423.12	471.12
WESTSIDE	1161.43	850.75	2012.18
TOTAL	167405.93	152475.63	319881.56
CARROLL			
BLACK HAWK	519.00	778.48	1297.48
CALVARY	869.88	2560.05	3429.93
CARROLLTON	27090.47	13558.58	40649.05
CENTERVILLE	615.36	308.41	923.77
HARMONY	400.00	600.00	1000.00
HICKORY GROVE	292.19	292.19	584.38
LIBERTY	2391.96	4309.92	6701.88
MALMAISON	2361.00	1619.00	3980.00
MCCARLEY	797.50	398.50	1196.00
MT OLIVE	7663.18	8135.11	15798.29
MT PISGAH	3876.33	2948.34	6824.67
NEW BETHEL	962.54	1948.44	2910.98
N. CARROLLTON	6510.13	10403.59	16913.72
PROVENCE	2538.26	2967.58	5505.84
SHILOH	479.00	380.00	859.00
VAIDEN	819.31	18979.75	27375.06
VALLEY HILL	305.43	805.43	1110.86
TOTAL	66065.54	71002.37	137067.91
CHICKASAW			
AMITY	664.30	1027.44	1691.74
ARROW GROVE	326.72	157.00	483.72
BETHEL	2820.25	1917.00	4737.25
CARNATION	912.04	219.00	1131.04
EGYPT	0.00	100.00	100.00
FBC HOULKA	7673.91	3965.87	11639.78
FBC HOUSTON	63143.25	6425.00	69568.25
FBC OKOLONA	16410.40	8000.00	24410.40
FBC WOODLAND	1527.00	152.00	1679.00
FELLOWSHIP	0.00	138.00	138.00
MCCONDY	0.00	100.00	100.00
MT OLIVE	542.15	942.00	1484.15
NEW PROSPECT	240.00	120.00	360.00
PARKWAY	8213.76	4666.61	12880.37
PLEASANT GROVE	993.80	2253.91	3247.71
PLEASANT RIDGE	450.00	150.00	600.00
SHILOH	1842.46	4960.01	6802.47
VAN VLEET	608.00	363.00	971.00
TOTAL	109308.04	37074.84	146382.88
CHOCTAW			
ACKERMAN	13997.74	11258.31	25256.05
BETHLEHEM	300.00	420.00	720.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	150.00	300.00	450.00
BLITHE CREEK	2688.00	3361.00	6049.00
CHESTER	9593.53	5252.76	14846.29
CONCORD	849.75	1271.42	2121.17
CROSS ROADS	462.92	213.45	676.37
FELLOWSHIP	3236.84	2939.74	6176.58
FENTRESS	650.00	648.00	1298.00
FRENCH CAMP	2274.93	4878.60	7153.53
HOPEWELL	1036.00	0.00	1036.00
MT MORIAH	1504.02	887.85	2391.87
MT PISGAH	1715.69	7366.53	9082.22
NEW HAVEN	1253.84	1547.11	2800.95
NEW ZION	1316.55	934.24	2250.79
PROVIDENCE	250.00	250.00	500.00
VICTORY	1662.18	998.64	2660.82
WEIR	6102.02	6955.16	13057.18
TOTAL	49044.01	49500.81	98544.82
CLARKE			
*ASSOCIATION	0.00	200.00	200.00
ANTIOCH	506.71	668.19	1174.90
BUCATUNNA	914.10	447.00	1361.10
CALVARY	815.50	1041.25	1856.75
CENTER RIDGE	150.00	632.22	782.22
DE SOTO	5153.00	3948.73	9101.73
E. PLEASANT GROVE	150.00	823.00	973.00
ELIM	647.00	381.00	1028.00
ENTERPRISE	14667.48	15173.43	29840.91
FBC QUITMAN	33482.10	37082.09	70564.19
FBC STONEWALL	4414.15	3121.36	7535.51
HARMONY	3702.90	1788.00	5490.90
HEBRON RIDGE	494.66	1515.24	2009.90
HEPHZIBAH	230.59	1200.00	1430.59
KNIGHTS VALLEY	550.00	944.81	1494.81
MONT ROSE	1197.35	347.00	1544.35
MT ZION	989.69	2303.91	3293.60
NORTHUP CHAPEL	590.79	134.00	724.79
OAK GROVE	2089.90	2510.91	4600.81
PACHUTA	2271.46	2057.63	4329.09
PHALTI	56.36	169.11	225.47
PINE GROVE	3489.00	3368.70	6857.70
PINE HILL	1800.00	2651.00	4451.00
PLEASANT GROVE	917.21	200.00	1117.21
PLEASANT HILL	6943.69	6814.46	13758.15
ROLLING CREEK	2140.39	1870.00	4010.39
SHUBUTA	4653.44	2063.46	6716.90
SQUEENOVIE	3231.88	2244.64	5476.52
1160.55	1160.55	1160.55	2321.10
TOTAL	107673.90	107304.23	214978.13
COPIAH			
ANTIOCH	3259.61	715.00	3974.61
BETHEL	2465.00	2628.00	5093.00
COMMUNITY LINE	0.00	529.00	529.00
DAMASCUS	87.33	349.00	436.33
FBC CR'L SPRINGS	45330.85	33371.27	78702.12
FBC HAZLEHURST	16500.00	13510.80	30010.80
GALLMAN	2687.00	3760.32	6447.32
GATESVILLE	540.66	360.44	901.10
GEORGETOWN	3365.85	8984.68	12350.53
HARMONY	2500.00	12618.47	15118.47
HAYWARD	2584.84	2117.62	4702.46
HOPEWELL	468.51	30.44	498.95
NEW PROVIDENCE	1474.00	4004.00	5478.00
NEW ZION	6081.58	11636.93	17718.51
PEARL VALLEY	2443.77	3189.93	5633.70
PHILGRIMS REST.	3734.00	5776.00	9510.00
PINE BLUFF	0.00	400.00	400.00
POPLAR SPRINGS	616.67	662.00	1278.67
ROCKY HILL	906.73	1336.61	2243.34
SARDIS	875.08	3593.39	4468.47
SHADY GROVE	444.40	4998.66	5443.06
SMYRNA	1188.00	1094.00	2282.00
SPRING HILL	1139.08	709.96	1849.04
STRONG HOPE	3667.00	5152.49	8819.49
SWANARENA	1504.97	3689.50	5194.47
WESSON	8133.43	10978.65	19112.08
WESTSIDE	181.38	0.00	181.38
ZION HILL	3597.00	2866.69	6463.69
TOTAL	123571.20	144563.54	268134.74
COV-IEFF DAVIS			
*ASSOCIATION	0.00	2516.00	2516.00
ANTIOCH	1305.55	1730.50	3036.05
BASSFIELD	4500.33	3546.65	8046.98
BETHANY	6633.68	5724.15	12357.83
CALHOUN	1946.08	1103.05	3049.13
CARSON	1602.38	917.00	2519.38
COLD SPRINGS	8738.51	7053.48	15791.99
DUBLIN	832.60	2966.62	3799.22
EDWARDS	1704.68	203.36	1908.04
FBC COLLINS	18834.39	6626.64	25461.03
FBC MT OLIVE	3891.66	2725.12	6616.78
FBC SANFORD	1698.00	1193.00	2891.00
HATHORN	1374.61	2160.29	3534.90
LEAF RIVER	1300.74	3125.00	4425.74
LONG STAR	208.74	1154.84	2663.58
MAHON	2468.97	5165.55	7634.52
NEW HOPE	1867.02	1782.92	3650.94
OAK GROVE	1534.00	3747.01	5281.01
OLD HEBRON	3763.02	4678.94	8441.96
ORA	956.84	1782.35	2739.19
PHALTI	2591.20	11251.21	13842.41
PRENTISS	4362.04	31301.18	35663.22
ROCK HILL	1704.68	3974.41	5679.09
SALEM	11896.48	2258.21	14154.69
SEMINARY	3089.57	725.28	3814.85
SOCIETY HILL	6440.31	7632.85	14073.16
UNION NORTH	0.00	410.00	410.00
UNION SOUTH	6543.39	5672.12	12215.51
VICTORY	1600.95	2036.84	3637.79
WHITESAND	15117.52	9930.29	25047.81
WILKINSON	1482.10	4990.00	6472.10
WILLOW GROVE	1482.10	4990.00	6472.10
TOTAL	161130.53	150587.98	311718.51
FRANKLIN			
BUNKLEY	386.70	200.00	586.70
CONCORD	930.00	14.00	944.00
DANFUS	128.00	168.00	296.00
EDDING	93.00	356.00	449.00

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
LAFAYETTE															
ANCHOR	17613.20	10909.27	28522.47	PETAL HARVEY	36345.68	22455.17	58800.85	FARMHAVEN	500.00	1680.00	2180.00	FBC PHILADELPHIA	22750.02	41933.82	64683.84
CALVARY	2100.00	1466.00	3566.00	PINEVIEW	6397.54	3345.70	9743.24	FBC BYRAM	12534.04	12970.15	25504.19	GOOD HOPE	1666.54	4105.14	5771.68
CLAR CREEK	8809.38	8842.86	17652.24	PROVIDENCE	19233.00	34538.69	53771.69	FBC CANTON	27256.53	26291.68	53548.21	GRACE	10685.26	14716.04	25401.30
COLLEGE HILL HTS	3484.02	2722.93	6206.95	RAWLS SPRINGS	11727.04	7775.36	19502.40	FBC CLINTON	129024.89	103644.49	232669.39	HIGH HILL	4820.13	3920.40	8740.53
DANAY	988.00	1148.00	2136.00	RIDGECREST	987.16	1422.08	2409.24	FBC FLORA	18390.81	7498.64	25889.45	HOPE	583.35	1440.65	2024.00
DENMARK	98.35	140.50	238.85	SOUTH 28TH AVE	1221.32	2183.06	3404.38	FBC JACKSON	213556.46	273513.89	487070.35	LAUREL HILL	1865.30	1032.00	2897.30
FBC ABBEVILLE	10835.83	16880.53	27716.36	SUNRISE	7796.00	6215.50	14011.50	FBC MADISON	93226.26	22368.60	117194.86	LINWOOD	3445.70	3280.57	6726.27
FBC OXFORD	53576.01	40591.85	94167.86	TEMPLE H'BURG	110559.75	69389.24	179948.99	FBC RIDGELEND	34013.00	8923.00	42936.00	LONGINO	983.31	835.80	1819.11
HARMONTOWN	13524.61	6723.81	20248.42	TEMPLE PETAL	893.66	500.00	1393.66	FBC TERRY	19145.28	18098.11	37243.39	MT CARMEL	200.00	445.00	645.00
NEW ELBETH	1900.97	4012.64	5913.61	THIRTY EIGHTH AVE	15549.80	13212.10	28761.90	FBC TERRY	19145.28	18098.11	37243.39	MT NELSON	7233.49	8063.80	15297.29
NEW HOPE	424.39	544.27	968.66	TRINITY	2004.39	336.34	2340.73	FRANKLIN	3173.61	1195.93	4369.54	NEW BETHEL	1964.46	1004.07	2968.53
NEW PROSPECT	16017.57	1515.40	17532.97	UNIVERSITY	562.71	11607.30	12170.01	GOOD HOPE	305.00	0.00	305.00	NEW BLACK JACK	404.07	1004.07	1408.14
NORTH OXFORD	54798.25	29636.78	84435.03	TOTAL	507162.47	377420.47	884582.94	GREEN PASTURES	150.00	0.00	150.00	NEW HARMONY	711.00	906.65	1617.65
OLD UNION	0.00	470.00	470.00					GRIFITH MEMOR.	21144.98	14695.14	35840.12	NEW PLEASANTDALE	150.00	350.00	500.00
PARIS	360.00	2643.59	3003.59	LEE				HIGHLAND	1280.47	2055.64	3336.11	NORTH CALVARY	3041.02	2656.99	5698.01
PHILADELPHIA	1505.00	8703.00	10208.00	*ASSOCIATION	0.00	1414.90	1414.90	HIGHLAND COLONY	1144.50	1043.70	2188.20	OAK GROVE	935.26	1136.13	2071.39
SHILOH	6294.21	6787.00	13081.21	AUBURN	14332.80	6189.00	20521.80	HILLCREST	19104.60	19295.11	38399.71	OLD PEARL VALLEY	935.26	1136.13	2071.39
TAYLOR	1642.86	824.09	2466.95	BELDEN	13675.84	3368.63	17044.47	LAKESHORE	7185.10	3472.60	10657.70	PINE GROVE	3458.00	10437.00	13895.00
TEMPLE HEIGHTS	1012.02	836.29	1848.31	BETHANY	100.00	700.00	800.00	LEARNED	568.61	484.49	1053.10	SALEM	1006.50	1364.61	2371.11
TRINITY	120.00	120.00	240.00	BIRMINGHAM	2000.00	0.00	2000.00	LONE PINE	0.00	100.00	100.00	SAND HILL	372.70	372.70	745.40
TULSA	1169.59	2147.85	3317.44	BISSELL	2835.61	2338.00	5173.61	LULA	60.00	465.00	525.00	SARDIS	367.51	1556.26	1923.77
UNION WEST	1656.00	827.50	2483.50	BROWER	4425.52	3133.09	7558.61	MCDOWELL ROAD	9699.32	1939.89	11639.21	SPRING CREEK	7921.65	6876.59	14798.24
YELLOW LEAF	7391.18	2545.67	9936.85	CALVARY	162324.59	137176.78	300001.37	MORRISON HTS	10172.42	4221.00	14393.42	TRINITY	2884.01	5902.19	8786.20
TOTAL	205341.44	173651.48	378992.92	CAMP CREEK	6846.06	3191.41	10037.47	NEW HAVEN	219.99	140.00	359.99	WEST PHILADELPHIA	0.00	147.00	147.00
LAMAR															
AUTUMN RIDGE	250.00	453.00	703.00	CHESTERVILLE	3556.39	5479.20	9035.59	NORTHMINSTER	831.00	3594.00	3674.00	WHITE OAK	0.00	147.00	147.00
BAXTERVILLE	1597.74	1035.00	2632.74	DOITY CHAPEL	2378.02	3798.10	6176.12	NORTHMINSTER	1253.85	10745.34	11999.19	TOTAL	112615.55	178658.47	291274.02
BELLEVUE	8164.54	4464.55	12629.09	EAST HEIGHTS	41850.20	21804.08	63654.28	NORTHMINSTER	1253.85	10745.34	11999.19	NEW CHOCTAW			
CALVARY	6000.00	9130.65	15130.65	EAST MT ZION	2332.84	4908.97	7241.81	OAK FOREST	23922.29	22457.94	46380.23	BOGUE CHITTO	0.00	395.74	395.74
COALTOWN	476.33	0.00	476.33	ELICATUBBA	2214.30	2214.30	4428.60	OLD RICE ROAD	3169.88	3026.15	6196.03	CANAWA	0.00	560.04	560.04
CORINTH	2199.00	2663.60	4862.60	FBC BALDWIN	40593.09	7658.55	48251.64	OLD RICE ROAD	3169.88	3026.15	6196.03	CORINTH	0.00	315.00	315.00
FBC LUMBERTON	5393.51	13950.43	19343.94	FBC GUNTOWN	2534.80	281.65	2816.45	PALESTINE	1405.94	1285.00	2690.94	HOPE INDIAN	80.00	310.00	390.00
FBC OLOH	10464.03	1112.21	11576.24	FBC NETTLETON	9747.94	3325.00	13072.94	PARKHILL	1031.66	1193.15	2224.81	MACEDONIA	0.00	306.00	306.00
FBC PURVIS	34441.27	12389.15	46830.42	FBC PLANTERSVILLE	10467.00	8769.00	19236.00	PARKWAY	38274.88	78193.06	116467.94	MT ZION	0.00	790.00	790.00
FBC SUMRALL	23984.04	20340.42	44324.46	FBC SALTILO	28083.81	11613.47	39697.28	POCAHONTAS	6229.36	4582.00	10811.36	PEARL RIVER COMM	217.98	367.00	584.98
GREENVILLE	1173.32	160.00	1333.32	FBC SHANNON	28083.81	11613.47	39697.28	RAYMOND	22676.46	18296.39	40972.85	PINE BLUFF	0.00	141.00	141.00
HICKORY GROVE	3243.40	1439.40	4682.80	FBC TUPELO	81919.01	134023.61	215942.62	WOODLAND ROAD	20702.22	35603.88	56306.10	TOTAL	297.98	2874.78	3172.76
IMMANUEL	14089.92	10432.62	24522.54	FBC VERNON	25279.56	1681.33	26960.89	RIDGECREST	70129.95	28877.34	99007.29	NEWTON			
MILITARY	1050.00	8891.33	9941.33	GRACE MEMORIAL	450.00	1504.40	1954.40	SALEM	3197.50	5420.00	8617.50	BEAT LINE	1059.40	1468.88	2528.28
OKAHOLA	3391.89	4999.44	8391.33	HARRISBURG	142507.75	50251.44	192759.19	SIMMONS MEM'L	144.61	168.31	312.92	BETHEL	1085.00	2485.00	3570.00
ORAL	5926.51	3190.27	9116.78	KOINONIA	149.00	604.40	753.40	SOUTHERN HILLS	989.00	700.00	1689.00	BEULAH	4999.98	7604.65	12604.63
RICHBURG	1121.98	5687.94	6809.92	LIMESTONE	1131.32	2987.68	4119.00	SOUTHSIDE	6595.00	9238.41	15833.41	CALVARY	6491.20	4528.78	11019.98
TRINITY	3038.27	2454.59	5492.86	MACEDONIA	2840.00	4069.00	6909.00	TEMPLE	893.07	1076.17	1969.24	CHUNKY	110		

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
WYATTE	2596.65	6132.31	8728.96	PRENTISS	2107.21	1127.00	3234.21	BEAVER DAM	80.00	0.00	80.00	BIG CREEK	3217.00	3099.00	6316.00
TOTAL	573872.72	351014.56	924887.28	CANDLER'S CHAPEL	946.41	2147.44	3293.85	BETHEL	1200.00	0.00	1200.00	CALVARY	27586.88	2360.25	29947.13
NOKUBEE				CASEY CREEK	914.95	540.15	1455.10	BURNS	200.00	150.00	350.00	CHAPARRAL	847.90	3054.83	3902.73
BROOKSVILLE	5371.50	9040.05	14411.55	CRESTWOOD	1639.48	2309.00	3948.48	CLAR CREEK	448.28	120.00	568.28	CHARITY	387.39	526.91	914.30
CALVARY MACON	600.00	130.00	730.00	EAST BROOKSVILLE	31904.43	21330.00	53235.30	CLAR SPRINGS	544.43	2868.00	3412.43	CLAR CREEK	950.40	1570.38	2520.78
CONCORD	500.00	1800.00	2300.00	EAST MARIETTA	1177.07	1177.07	2354.14	CONCORD	1468.28	2005.60	3473.88	COUNTY LINE	274.50	1251.50	1526.00
ELON	1720.80	4475.00	6195.80	EAST PLEASANT R'GE	1081.44	1341.32	2422.76	CORINTH	135.00	135.00	270.00	CROSSROAD	432.78	488.78	921.56
FBC MACON	1469.37	14311.42	28960.79	EAST PRENTISS	2639.53	1679.80	4319.33	EASTSIDE	0.00	200.00	200.00	ERET	114.00	114.00	228.00
MASHULAVILLE	1863.88	3292.00	5155.88	FAIRVIEW	1124.83	1874.69	2999.52	FBC MILZE	4125.85	4073.33	8199.18	EUCUTTA	0.00	50.00	50.00
MILK ALAK	1500.00	3848.00	5348.00	FBC BOONEVILLE	14036.24	34285.71	68321.95	FBC POLKVILLE	4033.02	4197.59	8230.61	EVERGREEN	2474.56	2741.71	5216.27
VERNON	0.00	100.00	100.00	FBC BURNSTOWN	580.96	180.00	760.96	FBC TAYLORSVILLE	12499.98	9799.15	22299.13	FBC BUCKATUNNA	2814.21	4905.08	7719.29
WEST SIDE	600.00	602.49	1202.49	FOREST HILL	828.00	264.00	1092.00	FELLOWSHIP	1261.59	1032.44	2294.03	FBC CLARA	12864.77	5206.13	18430.47
TOTAL	26805.55	37118.46	63924.51	GASTON	11181.67	15282.61	26464.28	GOODWATER	317.00	290.00	607.00	FBC STATE LINE	6033.78	5753.08	11786.86
PANOLA				HILL'S CHAPEL	250.21	125.09	375.30	HARMONY	872.60	361.00	1233.60	FBC TRINITY	3019.68	7862.63	10882.31
CALVARY	13549.47	10039.20	23588.67	INGRAM	2607.96	3899.24	6507.20	LEAF RIVER	2071.33	2885.71	4957.04	FBC WAYNESBORO	53789.39	22499.19	76279.58
COURTLAND	7552.50	1780.00	9332.50	MT OLIVE	7686.50	8197.77	15884.27	LIBERTY	1553.63	2250.60	3804.23	LIBERTY	6664.24	3202.75	9866.99
CRESNASH	2522.00	1205.00	3727.00	MT BURTON	327.00	74.00	401.00	LOREN	1248.33	2206.33	3454.66	MT ZION	2446.35	4950.97	7397.32
END LAKE	830.04	821.00	1651.04	OAK HILL	121.18	303.89	425.07	MT CARMEL	625.84	479.46	1105.30	PLEASANT GROVE	11089.04	5807.69	16896.73
ENON	1999.00	981.50	2980.50	OSBORNE CREEK	1569.25	2569.25	4138.50	MT PLEASANT	1133.78	1269.28	2403.06	RIVERSIDE	1527.56	560.25	2187.81
FBC BATESVILLE	86716.80	14805.28	121522.08	PINEY GROVE	421.82	1113.47	1535.29	NEW HOME	450.00	2493.25	2943.25	STRENGTHFORD	25.00	25.00	50.00
FBC SARDIS	18544.33	24176.73	42721.06	PLEASANT GROVE	448.50	744.50	1193.00	NEW SARDIS	2237.67	3649.00	5886.67	WEST SHADY GROVE	3969.46	4151.35	8120.81
FIRST FAITH	496.69	291.00	787.69	THRASHER	1067.25	3430.69	4497.94	OAK GROVE	1987.84	5337.23	7325.07	ZION REST	1399.90	5999.95	7399.85
GOOD HOPE	1218.19	3274.00	6492.19	TUSCUMBIA	615.00	2143.00	2758.00	ROCK HILL	456.28	30.14	486.42	TOTAL	152064.82	88846.93	240911.75
HEBRON	2821.72	127.00	2948.72	WHEELER	2802.09	3147.04	5949.13	ROSE HILL	489.54	885.44	1374.98				
IMMANUEL	1820.95	117.00	1937.95	TOTAL	10940.98	113254.73	22655.71	SALEM	227.09	910.20	1137.29				
LIBERTY HILL	4360.75	1685.00	6045.75	RANKIN				SARDIS	800.72	1538.53	2339.25	WINSTON			
LOCKE STATION	3642.75	1922.40	5565.15	*ASSOCIATION	0.00	150.00	150.00	SHADY GROVE	0.00	115.00	115.00	ANTIOCH	118.00	2643.00	3961.00
MCIVOR	519.50	296.50	816.00	ANDREW CHAPEL	410.13	2030.27	2440.40	SYLVARENA	1556.96	1750.41	3307.37	BETHEL	2861.79	1818.62	4680.41
NORTH BATESVILLE	6859.00	3105.00	9964.00	ANTIOCH-BRANDON	10523.59	6746.15	17269.74	TEB	270.00	650.00	920.00	CALVARY	10018.87	10000.43	20019.30
PEACH CREEK	2489.10	4145.50	7194.60	ANTIOCH FLORENCE	4094.70	437.12	4531.82	UNION	3602.86	697.33	4300.19	CRYSTAL RIDGE	1151.00	1906.50	3057.50
PHARSALIA	278.50	500.00	778.50	BARFOOT SPRINGS	940.00	778.24	1718.24	WALNUT GROVE	2060.00	2060.00	4120.00	DRY CREEK	0.00	1760.00	1760.00
PIRGIMS REST	2537.52	1805.00	4342.52	BETHEL	5439.11	4299.78	9738.89	WHITE OAK	3070.76	4152.42	7223.18	EAST LOUISVILLE	2682.02	3147.61	5829.63
POPE	6681.00	2474.75	9155.75	BRIAR HILL	57242.00	22278.22	79520.22	WILKINSON MEMORIAL	0.00	1249.00	1249.00	ELLISON RIDGE	2215.53	6000.00	8215.53
ROSE HILL	0.00	345.00	345.00	CASTLEWOODS	8868.36	4814.79	13683.15	TOTAL	96104.79	111894.32	207999.11	ENON	2381.40	1443.88	3825.28
SARDIS LAKE	1349.49	1647.47	2996.96	CATO	13127.03	10763.15	23890.18	TISHOMINGO				EVERGREEN	2397.33	7571.92	9969.25
SHADY GROVE	2004.00	8652.00	10656.00	CLEAR BRANCH	3126.37	222.00	3348.37	*ASSOCIATION	1033.67	50.00	1083.67	FBC LOUISVILLE	74732.66	56541.22	131273.88
TOLAWA	1378.59	550.00	1928.59	CONCORD	4344.05	2907.00	7251.05	BELMONT FIRST	2599.98	12452.88	15052.86	GOOD HOPE	0.00	563.00	563.00
UNION	1284.14	867.69	2151.94	CROSSROADS	5290.32	3253.85	8544.17	BETHLEHEM	342.47	737.45	1079.92	GUM BRANCH	661.29	141.40	802.69
TOTAL	173164.23	107866.93	281031.16	CROSSGATES	81092.22	39261.69	120353.91	CALVARY	4162.37	6717.47	10879.84	HARMONY	7770.00	6875.39	14645.39
PEARL RIVER				CROSSVIEW	4441.63	5348.51	9790.14	EASTPORT	116.80	2381.49	2498.29	LIBERTY	4858.97	1691.76	6550.73
BETHEL	6479.36	7735.92	14215.28	DEER CREEK	957.00	367.00	1324.00	FBC BURNSVILLE	708.92	1129.00	1837.92	MACEDONIA	2819.16	2581.75	5400.91
CENTRAL	8585.31	4072.08	12657.39	EASTSIDE PEARL	23605.72	10447.49	34053.21	GOLDEN CENTRAL	6579.57	11433.54	18013.11	MARS HILL	1335.07	2014.71	3349.78
CORINTH	1252.26	591.54	1843.80	E-SIDE PELAHATCHE	1260.00	1284.66	2544.66	HIGHLAND	350.31	1469.41	1819.72	MURPHY CREEK	7158.42	4155.87	11314.29
CRANE CREEK	5189.48	778.00	5967.48	FBC BRANDON	300630.00	63964.00	364594.00	IUKA	12000.00	5892.34	17892.34	NOXAPATER	14340.00	5407.92	19747.92
DERBY	840.00	1882.50	2722.50	FBC FANNIN	14511.45	10656.68	25168.13	MT MORIAH	300.00	450.00	750.00	OAK GROVE	223.00	2872.00	3095.00
EMMANUEL	80.00	441.00	521.00	FBC FLORENCE	25680.63	50903.35	76583.98	MT VERNON	548.28	0.00	548.28	POPLAR FLAT	2339.43	2389.21	4728.64
FAITH MEMORIAL	2648.98	3553.98	6202.96	FBC FLORENCE	41592.58	16160.69	57753.27	MT ZION	0.00	376.74	376.74	SINGLETON	663.00	863.00	1526.00
FBC CARRIAGE	2214.78	1090.50	3305.28	FBC FLORENCE	30000.00	14799.49	44799.49	NEW LIBERTY	4091.00	1302.31	5393.31	SOUTH LOUISVILLE	9141.41	0.00	9141.41
FBC NICHOLSON	1500.00	1508.00	3008.00	FBC RICHLAND	12622.40	2039.02	14661.42	NEW PROSPECT	2070.05	4017.75	6087.80	UNION RIDGE	1000.00	60.00	1060.00
FBC OZONA	1188.98	1532.12	2721.10	FLOWOOD	601.74	700.86	1302.60	NEW SALEM	1186.99	2217.19	3404.18	WEST CHAPEL	2006.61	4895.91	6902.52
FBC PICAYUNE	69266.93	26102.26	145369.19	GALILEE	578.85	278.96	857.81	OLD UNION	1133.09	1121.25	2254.34	WEST END	1214.00	1464.00	2678.00
FBC POPLARVILLE	24393.53	21213.26	45606.79	GRACE	7984.40	5179.30	13163.70	OLDHAM	546.82	1377.37	1924.19	TOTAL	159118.36	122933.70	282052.06
FLAT TOP UNITY	1871.79	1353.39	3225.18	GRANDVIEW	2028.00	4660.00	6688.00	PADEN	25.00	95.00	120.00				
FORDS CREEK	2535.00	2535.00	5070.00	HICKORY ROAD	2324.00	969.00	3293.00	SHADY GROVE	1147.81	491.00	1638.81	YALOBUSHA			
GOODYEAR	7361.76	4352.69	11814.45	JOHNS	2008.32	2047.74	4056.06	S CROSSROADS	737.60	1344.41	2082.01	BETHEL	8424.00	6007.50	14431.50
GUM POND	1777.87	2826.05	4603.92	LAKE HARBOR	1578.66	2605.27	4183.93	SOUTHWOOD	12330.29	12075.83	24406.12	CALVARY	1152.00	1060.00	2212.00
HARMONY	2015.36	1979.10	3994.46	LAKESHORE	3262.01	2269.33	5531.34	TISHOMINGO	611.07	505.31	1116.38	CAMP GROUND	1088.44	3204.47	4292.91
HILLCREST ROAD	1319.19	1542.29	2861.48	LEESBURG	10471.38	6594.31	17065.69	UNITY	1160.07	1807.51	2967.58	CLEAR SPRINGS	93.00	1400.00	1493.00
JACKSON LAND G RD	816.92	901.42	1718.34	LIBERTY	14317.32	6529.33	20846.65	YELLOW CREEK	59205.24	75407.24	134612.48	DELAY ROAD	150.00	100.00	250.00
JUNIPIER GROVE	9328.17	8931.88	18260.05	LIFELINE	925.00	920.66	1845.66	TOTAL				ELAM	757.66	495.84	1253.50
NEW HENLEYFIELD	1172.35	2394.88	3567.23	MC LAURIN HTS	44361.68	28303.01	72664.69					FAITH	0.00	618.21	618.21
NEW PALESTINE	9103.62	9329.33	18432.95	MEADOW GROVE	7169.13	6100.75	13269.88					FBC COFFEEVILLE	33815.00	10376.27	44191.27
OAK HILL	3227.13	4723.06	7950.19	MOUNTAIN CREEK	1718.00	2193.13	3911.13					FBC WATER VALLEY	19902.00	5572.83	25474.83
OLIVE	4085.00	3938.00	8023.00	MT PISGAH	5449.00	4502.00	9951.00					FRIEND			

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Chamblee and Eichelberger

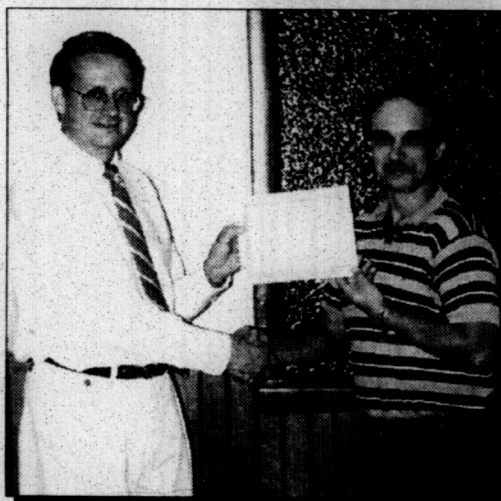
Mars Hill Church, missions, Lafayette and Carthage, ordained Keith Marshall Associations.

Chamblee (left) on July 11 as deacon. Herbert Eichelberger (right) is pastor.

Clear Creek Church, Marshall Association, held an ordination service on June 27. Pictured (from left) are David Clark, pastor of Greenbrook Church, Southaven; Donald Worsham, ordained to the ministry and pastor of Clear Creek Church; and Don Stanfill, director of



Clark, Worsham, and Stanfill



Burns and Baker

Murry Baker was recently ordained as deacon in Cedar Bluff Church, Golden Triangle Association. Pictured is Baker, right, accepting his certificate of ordination from Sammy Burns, pastor of Cedar Bluff Church.



Glade Church, Jones County, ordained new deacons on July 11. Pictured is Mike Thompson, pastor, with Alex Hodge, Bobby Parnell, and Wayne Thompson, new deacons.

McAdams Church to celebrate 150th

The 150th anniversary of McAdams Church, Attala Association, will be held on Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Joe Anderson, former pastor for 13 years. A noon meal will be served in fellowship hall, followed by a miscellaneous program. Jamie Moore is pastor.

James Young Chapter of RAs at Corinth Church, Simpson Association, raised \$110 to help feed children at Vacation Bible School in Odessa, Ukraine. RAs pictured are Robert Stewart, Mark McMillian, Andy Maddox, Gabriel Alvarey, Ben Maddox, Tyler Williamson, Matthew Hankins, and Adam Blair; leaders are Kenny Stewart, Calvin Blair, Larry Bynum, and Willie Johns. Dean Stewart is pastor.



James Young Chapter of RAs



WINTER BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

*Live for the Future Now:
A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*



D. Michael Martin



Jonathan Hewett

DATE: September 28, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
TEACHERS: D. Michael Martin, professor of New Testament interpretation, associate academic dean at Golden Gate Seminary, and author of *Live for the Future Now: A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*
Jonathan Hewett, youth evangelist from Celina, Texas, and author of *Last Word, the study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians for youth*
LUNCH: Complimentary by MBCB Sunday School Department

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Churches being started in 'Valley of Saints'

SAN MARCOS DE TARRAZU, Costa Rica (BP) — Missionary Tony Rengifo chats with a passerby as the sun slips behind the coffee-covered mountains above San Marcos de Tarrazu, Costa Rica.



FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM — Outside a tailor shop in San Marcos de Tarrazu, Costa Rica, missionary Tony Rengifo (left) shares the gospel with Abelino Morales, a migrant who works on a nearby coffee farm. (BP photo by Sandy King)

It's been a long day for Rengifo, but he never tires of sharing his faith. That's what he's doing — talking with a man on the streets of San Marcos, the largest town in a Roman Catholic region called "The Valley of the Saints."

Rengifo listens with interest to the man, then shifts the conversation to spiritual matters. While people pass them on the street, the man prays to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

Encounters like this are why Rengifo and his wife, Renee,

missionaries of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), travel several weekends a month to San Marcos, about a two-hour drive from their home in San Jose, Costa Rica's capital.

"Our work here in the valley helps keep lostness alive for us," Rengifo says. "It's here we face most challenges of the mission field — meeting new people, listening to their needs, leading them to Christ, helping to disciple new believers."

A major breakthrough happened in 1997 when Juan Carlos Castro, then the pastor of San Pedro, and Rengifo walked into a San Marcos tailor's shop operated by Jose Ramon Chaves, a former Baptist pastor.

For nearly six months he had prayed God would provide him a pastorate. When Castro and Rengifo introduced themselves, "I felt something warm in my chest — like a fire," Chaves says. "I knew the Lord was answering my prayers."

Rengifo recalls: "We'd been under a heavy impression that the Lord had someone for us to work with in San Marcos. When he led us to

Jose Ramon, we joined God where he was already at work."

Later Chaves helped the Rengifos and San Pedro members start a Baptist congregation in San Marcos, where he now is pastor. All the while, the Rengifos keep sharing their

faith in the bustling capital of San Jose, too. The main way they do that is by building lasting friendships with Costa Ricans.

"We believe incarnational witnessing takes us a long way in missions," Rengifo says.

MBC housing announced

Listed below are room rates of some of the motels easily accessible to downtown Jackson for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (prices do not include tax). Please mention that you will be attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention when making reservations.

Cabot Lodge I-55 at County Line Rd. 120 Dyess Rd., Ridgeland (601) 957-0757	\$78.00 \$74.00	king size standard
Cabot Lodge-Millsaps State St. at Woodrow Wilson 2375 North State, Jackson (601) 948-8650 or 1-800-874-4737	\$72.00 (includes complimentary breakfast)	flat rate
Coliseum Ramada Inn I-55 North (between Pearl & High St. exits) Jackson (601) 969-2141	\$59.00	flat rate for up to 4 people king or double beds
Edison Walthall 225 E. Capitol, Jackson (601) 948-6161	\$69.00 \$79.00	single double
Hampton Inn & Suites 320 Greymont Ave., Jackson (601) 352-1700	\$69.00 (includes complimentary breakfast)	flat rate for single or double
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 310 Greymont Ave., Jackson (601) 948-4466	\$69.95 (continental breakfast buffet)	2 king-size beds
Red Roof Inn Coliseum I-55 and High Street (601) 969-5006	\$41.99 \$46.99 \$51.99	flat rate - single (king) flat rate - double Business king (suite-type)

Reservation code: B131 MSBAPT

Reconciliation Workshop cancelled

The Reconciliation Workshop that had been scheduled for Oct. 21 at the Golden Triangle Association office in Columbus has been cancelled. For more information, contact Richard Brogan, consultant in the Strategic Initiatives Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3361 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

REVIVAL DATES

Pope (Panola): Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; P. J. Scott, Olive Branch, evangelist; Brian Eads, Grenada, music; Jimmy Bryant, pastor.

Clear Branch, Wesson: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Miller, Monticello, evangelist; Randy Carruth, Summit, music; Wayne Moak, pastor.

Slayden, Lamar: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m., meal, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Phillips, guest speaker; Jeff Chamblee of American Family Radio, music evangelist; Gary Adams, pastor.

First, Magnolia: Sept. 19-22; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Grant McElveen, speaker; Philip Alford, music and worship; Barry Ward, pastor.

First, Lake: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, BSU director at ECCC, evangelist; Pam Parker, music; Ken McLeMore, pastor.

Georgetown, Georgetown: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joel Haire, evangelist; Les Fox, music; Todd Stewart, pastor.

Lena, Lena: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Richard Beal, evangelist; Jeffery Jones, musician; Tom Stevens, pastor.

Strong Hope, Wesson: Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., lunch, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Ivy, music; Ken Kirk, pastor.

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PRIMARY MISSION

Editor:

Apparently there is a new translation of the Bible being used in Mississippi by some Southern Baptists, in which the Great Commission reads thusly: "Go ye into all of Mississippi and make college graduates, teaching them biology, and business management, and computer science." I say that must be the way some people's Bibles read, because that is what is reflected in the priorities expressed in the proposed 2000 budget.

Under that proposal, as reported in the September 2 [issue of The Baptist Record], international missions would receive \$4,852,074, while the three mostly liberal arts colleges in the state would receive \$4,868,400 — \$16,326 more!

Again, our priorities (and this applies to other states as well as Mississippi; I know it applies to Alabama) are skewed far afield from what Christ intended the primary mission of the church to be.

J.C. Brady, pastor
Shiloh Church, Port Gibson

COMBE SEEKS MEMBERS

Editor:

The Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists (COMBE) is working hard to raise the standard for Mississippi Southern Baptist evangelists! In order to do this our officers will be presenting several proposals which will be voted on at our annual business meeting. These will include Affirmations of Account-

ability and an Evangelist Code of Ethics. The purpose for this letter is to help locate any new evangelists that this conference may not know about. Some major promotional efforts will be taking place in the next few months and we do not want to leave out any evangelists that God has called into this area of service.

If there are those of you whom God has called into evangelism and you meet the qualifications of COMBE and you would like to be a member of this conference, we need and want to hear from you. You may contact our secretary/treasurer Tim Posey at P. O. Box 3634, Brookhaven MS 39603, or call him at (888) 939-3277. Email: timpsey@kingdomgrowth.com. For more information about the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists you may access our website at www.kingdomgrowth.com and then click on COMBE.

Ronnie Cottingham
President, COMBE
Lucedale

THANKS, DAD

Editor:

August 29 marked the end of the full time pastorate of Floyd Higginbotham. During these forty-plus years, he served eight churches all within the state of Mississippi. His pastorate for the last fifteen years was Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln Association.

There are many adjectives to describe his life and ministry but I would like to list only one: integrity. In this day, this word

has fallen from the vocabulary of some. In this instance it not only has held steadfast and true, but also has risen above the standards we seem to use today. He has always preached the uncompromising Gospel of Jesus Christ.

He has always taken the highest road possible in moral character and lived it before his congregation, community, and family.

On behalf of my brother and two sisters, I would like to publicly say to our Dad, "Thank you for living your life as a pastor and, more importantly, as a father in a way that helps us expect no less from those who will now shepherd all of us."

Sam Higginbotham
Clinton

RIGHT ON TRACK

Editor:

Associate editor Carl M. White was right on track with his Pastor's Perspective in the August 12 issue ("In Search of the Significant Church"). I have been amazed at the response of my fellow brothers in the ministry when they asked me where I was leading. When I told them God had called me to a small country church they would begin to console me and try to comfort me. It shocked me to hear them say things like, "Hang in there, You'll get a bigger church one day."

If I was going to play the climb the ladder game I would have never entered into the ministry. I could not understand how so many would see our calling as a simple job.

With the number of vacant pulpits in the area churches today, it is not hard to hear stories from search committees about pastors who have just been "called" to a church and are already sending out letters and resumes looking for another church. That is sad.

Maybe that is why so many pastors are not made to feel welcome for some time in their churches. The church families have been burned so many times that they refuse to love another pastor and his family because they know he will not be there long.

It is my desire to be a very successful pastor. To me that means being where God wants me, as long as he wants me there, and doing what he has called me to do: love his people as a servant. I have found that when that is the goal for the pastor, the people will open their hearts and love the pastor in return to the point that he is not interested in another church, and the significant church to him is the one in which God has placed him.

Webb Armstrong, pastor
Sarepta Church, Meadville

HOMECOMINGS

Leaf River, Collins: Sept. 19; 170th year; Woody Burt, former pastor, and president of Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., will preach in the 10:30 a.m. service; fellowship meal will be served following services.

R. J. Wilemon, speaker; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m., singing with Saved By Grace; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

Galilee (Copiah): Sept. 19; services, 11 a.m.; Wallace Clark, pastor, speaker; lunch following services.

Calvary, Petal: Sept. 19; 61st anniversary; services begin at 11 a.m. with Phil Harris, Petal, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds following services; 6 p.m. service with Bennie Creel, Tenn., guest speaker.

New Prospect, Olive Branch: Sept. 26; 130th year; Randy Mobley will speak at 9:15 a.m. and Joe Lusby at 10:20 a.m.; BBQ dinner at noon; 2 p.m. service; Buddy Perstrop, pastor.

Sallis, Sallis: Sept. 26; service, 10 a.m.; covered dish meal following service; Doyle Shirey, former pastor, speaker; Thomas Wicker, pastor.

Bigbee, Amory: Sept. 19; services starting at 10:30 a.m.,

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON is seeking a part-time organist. Resumes will be accepted throughout the month of September. A job description is available through the church's music office. Interested persons should send their resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400; or contact 601-856-6177.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

NEW PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a youth director. Send resume c/o Amy Allen, 7080 Hwy 28 West, Hazlehurst, MS 39083; or call 601-277-3129.

DIAMONDHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking enthusiastic individual for minister of music and youth. Must have degree in music and 2 years experience. Excellent salary and benefits. Contact church office 228-255-3348.

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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is seeking a minister of music/worship to lead a fully developed music ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Responsibilities include adult, college, and youth music and supervision of children's music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205) 758-0495. Calvary@dbtech.net.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS? New English/Spanish coloring books help share the gospel. Sixteen page coloring book, "God's Plan," is designed with the Christian message in English and Spanish. For a free sample: Bobby Shurden Ministries, 48 Liberty Place #2, Hattiesburg, MS 39402; fax 601-264-3337; or e-mail ams@megagate.com.

GROUPS VISIT TILAPIA BASKET, 241 Goodluck Rd., Petal, MS. Tour working fish farm then enjoy all-you-can-eat meal. Unique opportunity to taste the type of fish many believe Jesus fed the multitudes. Call 601-583-6786 or 601-582-5891.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Atoning worship

Leviticus 11:1-16:34

By Sylvia Fleming

In Exodus 6:7, God said to the children of Israel, "I will take you to me for a people and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God...." Because he was and is the Jehovah God of Israel, he said to them, "Ye shall be holy; for I am holy..." (Leviticus 11:44).

So Israel was to be holy because God is holy? How was that to be? God never issues commands without having first provided man a means of accomplishing them.

The high priest on the Day of

Atonement would offer a bullock for his own sin offering and make confession of his sins and ask forgiveness for them.

After Aaron's making an offering for his own sin, he would then intercede for Israel. The fact that Aaron first had to be cleansed indicates that the believer must first be clean and repentant before he can intercede for another. Because God is holy, he will turn a deaf ear to a sinful request unless it is a confession of sin.

Next, Aaron took two goats and by lot decided the fate of



Fleming

each. One was to be slain as the killed portion of the sacrifice, while the other would serve as the scapegoat. The two goats made one sacrifice. This offering pointed to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. While Jesus, fully man and fully God, could both die and also carry the sins of the world away, the goat could not. Thus, two goats were used as a foreshadowing of the real work of redemption. That work was accomplished "...through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10); therefore, Christ became both the killed portion of the sacrifice and also the scapegoat, pointing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, as Psalms 101:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath [the

Lord] removed our transgressions from us."

Though all who have been redeemed have joined the priesthood of believers, only the high priest can do this work. Just as the high priest alone was the one to enter the Holy of Holies, it is still only the High Priest who can enter into the Father's throne room. There is a tremendous gulf between a holy God and man; however, that gulf was bridged by the believer's High Priest Jesus Christ at the cross when "...the veil [covering the Holy of Holies] was torn in two..." (Matthew 27:51). The believer can go into the presence of the Holy Father, but the only way in is through the Father's Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus as the high priest presented his very own blood to his Father. With the work of that

ultimate sacrifice, the Father does not see the sins of the believer because they have been washed away through that blood, exemplified by the sacrifices of the Aaronic priesthood.

Though the work of Aaron was not the real thing nor was it perfect, it did present to all who lived at that time a shadow of what was to come. Though the believer's work is not perfect, it is a shadow of what has been. However, the work accomplished at the cross was perfect and one day the believer's work shall be holy. Just as the Jews were the chosen of God, the believers are also a select group as not only the Bride of Christ, but also "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people of [God's] own" (1 Peter 2:9).

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Called to covenant

Exodus 19:3-6; 20:24, 7-8, 12-17

By Jerry L. Smith

Many children are made to feel special if they are first string, first chair, "most beautiful", or valedictorian of their class. But what about those kids that never get in the game, can't play a note, or have to sneak up on a mirror? Do we, as parents, still make them feel "special"? Or is our love conditionally based on their athletic, social, or academic success?

When I heard the gospel as an 18 year-old non-christian, the unconditional aspect of God's love impressed me. After realizing God loved me the way I was, I nearly tripped over my own two feet running to the cross.

In our text from Exodus, we

find that God invited Israel to be his chosen people. He wanted the people of Israel to be his "special treasure."

Just as God invited Israel to enter into a covenant with him, he extends the same invitation to us. In fact, he extends that same invitation to you. Have you accepted his invitation?

Covenant invitation (19:3-6). As a pastor, I receive numerous invitations to weddings, graduations, and other special occasions. Some of the invitations are printed with gold embossed lettering on deluxe stationery, and others come printed on simple card stock.

I'm never as impressed with an invitation's lettering and



Smith

paper weight as I am with the notion that someone thought enough of me to include me in their special occasion. For me, an invitation says, "You are special."

On Mount Sinai, God invited the children of Israel to enter into a covenant with him. With his invitation, he was saying, "You are special."

Today, God is inviting you to enter into a covenant relationship with him through his son, Jesus Christ. The invitation is found in John 3:16 and is extended to all mankind. If you look closely enough and use your imagination, you'll find that the print on the invitation is in red . . . blood red.

This invitation is, without a doubt, the most important invitation you will ever receive. It is an invitation to inherit eternal life and experience peace.

Don't you want peace in

your life? Your home? Your soul? Then accept his invitation. It was addressed almost 2000 years ago and I am serving as God's mailman. Go ahead, open it up. It's addressed to you. If you don't believe me, then open your Bible to John 3:16 and interchange your name with the word "world." See, I told you that his invitation was to you! Don't you feel "special" now?

Covenant loyalty (20:2-17). With God's invitation to Israel, he was saying, "You are special to me." But with the Ten Commandments, God was adding, "And I want to be special to you." God wants you to return his love by making him the number one priority in your life. He desires exclusive allegiance.

I was an outstanding athlete in high school. Well, maybe "mediocre" would be a better word than "outstanding."

During two-a-day football practices in August, you found

out quickly who was willing to make football a top priority. Our coach wanted you to love football so much that you would be willing to name your first born son "Rawlings."

God requires the same devotion as a football coach. He informed the Israelites that if he was going to be their God, then he didn't want to compete with some piece of wood or carving of stone. He wanted to be their top priority.

God issues the same directive to his children today. If we make idols out of our ambition, possessions, or relationships, then we have violated the first and second commandments.

God wants a relationship with you, but he won't force you to accept his invitation or return his love. Won't you invite him into your heart right now and become one of his chosen people?

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

LIFE AND WORK

Keeping angels in their place

Deut. 32:15-18; Ps. 106:35-37; 1 Cor. 10:19-20; Gal. 1:6-9; Col. 2:18-19

By Tom Atwood

Spirituality is a key element in today's post-modern culture. Many are seeking to find ultimate reality in the realm of the invisible and the spiritual. But, these spiritual pursuits are extraneous to biblical faith. In many ways the new spirituality is a neopaganism that seeks to experience the supernatural through angels who serve as spiritual guides and protectors. The potential for deceit, damage, and delusion is great.

Though Christians affirm the reality of angels, we must reject the view that places an overemphasis on them. Angels, in the contemporary secular

culture, often are viewed as private gods who are to be pleased and placated in return for their guidance and protection. God, and God alone, is to be pleased and worshiped. The Bible reveals some definite areas of danger that flow from false teachings about angels.

Danger: Distortion (Gal. 1:6-9). Apparently the Galatians had quickly moved away from the gospel proclaimed by Paul. In his concern for both them and the gospel, Paul instructed them not to turn to a distorted gospel even if "an angel from heaven" should carry the message to them.



Atwood

Many cults have maintained that they have received revelations from angels. Throughout history many have been led astray and led into distorted gospel. Any so-called new truth that does not adhere to the scripture is a lie!

Danger: Devaluation (Col. 2:18-19). Not only can angels distort the gospel, they can also devalue Jesus Christ. To reach a higher level of spirituality some had apparently began to worship angels and, in so doing, had lost touch with Christ, the head of the body. Paul labels it as "false humility," this misplaced value of higher spirituality, and a disqualification from God's rewards.

A fascination with angels can lead to the worship of angels and the dangers of doing so are real. Christians who do this devalue the unique significance of Jesus Christ in their lives and

compromise their relationship to him.

Danger: Demons (1 Cor. 10:19-20). Not every angelic being is good. The Bible calls the evil, fallen angels demons. Among the myriad of problems at Corinth was participation, by some, in feasts honoring idols and the Lord's Supper. Paul says that they cannot participate in both. Even if they believe that the idols are nothing, pagan sacrifices made to idols really were wood, metal, or stone because behind the idol lurked a demon.

Giving tribute and devotion to angels is an act of idolatry and is an opening for the demonic. Only God is worthy of our tribute and devotion. We must avoid anything that makes angels rather than God the focus of our spiritual lives.

Danger: Diversion (Deut. 32:15-18; Ps. 106:35-37). This is Moses' swan song in which he gives a solemn warning to Israel. He prophesied that

Israel would grow fat and prosperous in the Promised Land. As a result, they would abandon the God who created them and cared for them. In their diversion from the Lord God they would turn to pagan idols and sacrifice to them. In doing this they actually would be sacrificing to demons.

The psalmist declared that in Israel's integration with pagan peoples they had been corrupted and their faith diverted. In the end they "sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons" (v.37). In the plethora of angel-based spirituality is often nothing more than a reversion to polytheism and paganism. Angel-based religion can well serve as a medium on the way to a more clearly debased religion. As with Israel, once there is the slide into the demonic, there often results a full-blown pagan lifestyle.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
e-mail: bcvl@misnet.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Report: TV family hour 'worse than ever'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While television's prime time has been known for decades as "the family hour," the latest research shows it rarely is that, according to a study by the largest Hollywood-based media watchdog organization in America.

said a CBS spokesperson called the report "ludicrous and completely misguided."

Mark Honig, PTC's executive director, said in an Aug. 31 interview with Conservative News Service (CNS) that the broadcast networks' measurable increase

in the use of objectionable elements during the classic family hour means "there's no effort on the part of the industry to clean up the content of prime time."

The CNS article reports a comment by Brad Turell, executive vice president of Warner Brothers' (WB) network communications, concerning Honig's comment: "I think shows like 'Seventh Heaven,' 'Safe Harbor' and 'Sister Sister,' among others,

hour, prefaced with a warning that it contains language that may be found offensive, is posted on the PTC Internet site at www.parentstv.org.

PTC is a subsidiary of the Media Research Center, headed by nationally syndicated columnist L. Brent Bozell II.

The networks once operated with a "civic duty to behave in a responsible manner. You can forget all that today," Bozell in his Aug. 31 column.

"Responsible programming has also been abandoned," Bozell wrote. "The industry as a whole has not only forsaken any appeal to the better angels of the public's nature, but is actively feeding the most crass and destructive temptations, demographic by demographic. And it's in this foul environment that, perhaps not surprisingly, the most offensive programming is being aimed at youngsters during the so-called family hour."

Earlier this summer, former U.S. Presidents Carter and Ford were part of a group of about 60 other Americans who made an appeal to the entertainment industry "to institute a new code

of conduct that will reduce violent and sexual content" in network programming, as reported in the July 22 issue of Baptist Press. In "An Appeal to Hollywood" released July 21, the group called for "executives of the media industry — as well as CEOs of companies that advertise in the electronic media — to join with us, and with America's parents, in a new social compact aimed at renewing our culture and making our media environment more healthy for our society and safer for our children."

Last year, the Parents Television Council released a report showing the ratings system was failing — 65% of shows containing foul language failed to carry an L for language and 76% with sexual innuendo did not receive a D for dialogue.

The Parents Television Council's www.parentstv.org website features a variety of ways for concerned citizens to take action, along with a list of PTC's celebrity advisory board members. The PTC mailing address for more information is 600 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

"The Family Hour: Worse Than Ever and Headed for New Lows," an 11-page report released Aug. 31 by the Parents Television Council (PTC), shows in detail objectionable elements aired during the networks' 8-9 p.m. Eastern time slot.

The study reflects not only the networks' trend in their use of objectionable elements, but also an acceleration in that trend over the past year and a half.

PTC's report focuses on prime-time programming aired November 1997 through May 1999 and quantifies the types and instances of objectionable material shown during that time. Objectionable material, defined as "lewd references to sexual activity, foul language, and violent incidents," in family hour programming on the broadcast networks is up 75%, according to the report.

In its analysis, PTC found the use of coarse language in prime-time shows has increased 58%, and violence has increased 86%. The use of suggestive sexual content has increased 77% and is described as "easily the most common of the three types of offensive material" in prime time, since "more than two-thirds of family-hour shows included sexual content."

The study shows the Fox network to be the worst offender, using "exactly eleven offensive instances per hour." PTC found "not a single series on Fox during the 'family hour' is appropriate for families."

CBS was the "least offensive network," with 3.62 objectionable instances per hour, the report states.

So far Fox has "refused to comment on the study," said PTC senior analyst Tom Johnson, one of the authors of the study, in an interview with Baptist Press Sept. 2. Johnson

rank the WB with more hours of family programming than any other network." Turell also called WB "more proactive than any other network" in creating family friendly television. WB is involved in the Family Friendly Forum, "a group of advertisers promoting the development of TV shows with a broader family appeal," CNS reported, also stating, "The PTC has applauded WB programs like 'Seventh Heaven' for their family appeal."

However, CNS also quoted Turell as stating, "We're just as proud of 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' and 'Dawson's Creek,'" both of which contain examples of objectionable material cited in PTC's report on the family hour.

ABC's Edward Dandridge, vice president of communications, told CNS he could not comment on the PTC study since he had not read it, but he also said the findings are "probably not accurate" since no programming after May 1999 was studied. Paul McGuire, senior vice president of media relations for UPN, declined to comment on PTC's report. No one from NBC returned numerous telephone calls by CNS for comment.

The front page of the Sept. 1 issue of Daily Variety highlighted the PTC report with the headline, "Parent org blasts TV's Family Hour." The Sept. 2 issue of The Washington Times headlined its report on PTC's study with "TV's 'Family hour' slimier."

The importance of PTC's study of family hour programming lies in its analysis of "the impact of popular culture on the nation's morals," Johnson said. Cable programming during prime time was not included in the study "because we have a small staff doing all we can handle right now," Johnson added.

The full report on the family



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My husband insists on pointing out photographs from his "gentlemen's magazines." I don't look like those women and I don't appreciate him doing that to me. How can I get him to stop?

The key is how you feel as evidenced by your statement, "...doing that to me." The fact is that this is something he is indeed doing to you as well as to the women degrading themselves in those photos. He is being very unfair; does he look like the young men who can be found in "ladies' magazines" of a similar ilk? Probably not. Don't get visibly irritated or angry every time he does this. You can walk away but before you do, tell him, "I don't appreciate the comparisons you are making, nor do I believe those women love you the way I love you. I love you as you are; please love me the way I am." You may not get the immediate response you want, but continue to make your point each time this subject comes up and you will send a stronger message than if you get irritated or angry. "Just say no" is a phrase we teach our children to help them handle dangerous temptations, and your hus-

band obviously needs to learn it as an adult in order to deal with the dangerous temptation of pornography. Pray for him and serve as an example that can win him over without saying a word (1 Peter 3:1-2).

Is it permissible to experiment with other religions as long as I intend to return to Christianity?

Don't give the devil a foothold! You shouldn't experiment with religions the way you try on clothes or choose a new ice cream flavor. People who do so often lose the way back to their Christian roots. The deeper question is: What are you searching for? If your Christian walk is not fulfilling, take time to pray about your desires and seek out Christian friends who will pray for you and help you walk through the Scriptures to find the answers you seek. Write down questions you have about your faith, and discuss the subject with your pastor or a Christian counselor. Be assured by the words of the Lord in Jer. 29:13 (NIV), "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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LER THY HSA LER
FMXFERLP YRMR ZSLVT
IXES: PVSWR LEHL LVUR
LER NVSCAXU XD CXA
VP FMRHWERA, HSA
RBRMK UHS FMRPPRL
VSLX VL.

TZNR PVQLRRS: PVQLRRS

Clue: T = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eleven: Twenty-Six.